

# the chronicle

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COLIN, AGE 83

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WIN TICKETS FOR  
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BIGGEST NIGHT

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## Town's links to Titanic will be showcased in new exhibition

ARTIFACTS and images revealing Stourbridge's links with the Titanic are set to be showcased in a new exhibition.

Great Barr researcher Andrew Lound is planning to cram in findings from 40 years of research into the display, illustrating the ship's links with Stourbridge, Smethwick and Bilton.

The exhibition will feature pictures of weighing equipment made by Smethwick-based W&T Avery Ltd at its Soho Foundry in 1911 used to weigh luggage.

There will be pictures of safes, made by Bilston-based Perry & Company, that would have been located on the sea deck and used to keep first-class

passengers' valuables safe, and door locks made by a number of small firms in Willenhall.

Mr Lound, aged 45, said the exhibition would feature about 400 exhibits. "People will be dumbfounded by how much of that ship came from the Black Country and the Midlands."

### Glass

Artifacts on display will include examples of crystal glass produced by Stourbridge-based companies including Stuart Crystal.

There will also be a plate featuring the Perry & Company logo, which would have been the same as the ones on the ship's safes.

It will also feature samples of metal from the wreck site and models

showing the development of shipbuilding and the Midlands' connections with them.

Although a date or location for the exhibition is yet to be confirmed, it is hoped it will take place in January. The exhibition is one of a number of events to mark the 100th anniversary of the ship sinking on April 15, 1912.

Next Saturday, a replica anchor, like the one on the ship, will be unveiled at Netherton Arts Centre.

The shackle and cable chain of the anchor were made by Walter Somers at Halesowen.

For information, email Andrew Lound at [odyssey@dial.pipex.com](mailto:odyssey@dial.pipex.com) or visit the website [www.odyssey.dial.pipex.com](http://www.odyssey.dial.pipex.com)

**Anchor aweigh – Page 6**

## TRIBUTES TO HEART VICTIM, 15

Tributes have been paid to a Stourbridge school pupil who died of heart failure after collapsing on the beach while playing football with his family.

James Lowe, aged 15, of Brierley Hill has been on holiday in Devon with his parents Chris and Angela and his 12-year-old brother Thomas when he was taken ill.

This photograph, released by his family, show James and Thomas near the beach on holiday just days before his collapse.

Despite the efforts of the lifeguards, an off-duty doctor, firemen and anaesthetist at the scene, James died later at North Devon Hospital in Barnstaple.

His father Chris, aged 46, said their extended family had joined them for



James, left, and Thomas on holiday

had been born with an undiagnosed genetic syndrome which affected the development of his bones and muscles and suffered heart problems which saw him make regular trips to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

But despite his mobility problems, Mr Lowe said James lived life to the full and was a popular pupil at Redhill School in Stourbridge.

He had been taking golf lessons, enjoyed music and was due to become a prefect at school this term.

"James always tried so hard in everything he did and we are so proud of him and the person he had become," added Mr Lowe, of Stamford Road.

Around 1,000 tributes have been left on the website Facebook which Chris says has been comforting to the family during such difficult days.

Dozens of condolence cards have also arrived at the family home.

James died on August 28. His funeral was being held at Stourbridge Crematorium today (September 15).

It is family flowers only but donations can be made to Birmingham Children's Hospital and the RNLI.

West Bromwich Albion fan James

## Band that's aiming to be streets ahead in final



The Pargeters, from left, Rich Jauncey and Nick Jauncey, with, top left, singer, James Rees and Pete Wainwright on bass. Final member Greg Cartwright is in Poland

A BAND named after the Stourbridge street in which they live have beaten off competition from around 150 groups to land a spot on the bill at a top London venue.

The Pargeters, who live and rehearse in Pargeter Street, could land a £100,000 prize including recording and production deals when they play in the national final of the Surface Festival 2011.

They will perform at the prestigious Indigo2 venue at the O2 in London on October 1 backed by a legion of fans from the Black Country.

### Drummer

The Pargeters are lead singer and guitarist, James Rees, Rich Jauncey and Greg Cartwright on guitars, bass player Pete Wainwright and drummer Nick Jauncey.

More than 150 bands started off in the Midlands section of the Surface competition and just five have made it through to play alongside regional winners from the rest of the UK. In all, 20 bands from around Great Britain will compete for the top prize.

For more details see [www.surfacefestival.com](http://www.surfacefestival.com) or [www.facebook.com/pargeters](http://www.facebook.com/pargeters)

## Man is arrested on suspicion of murder

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a body was found at a flat in Stourbridge.

The suspect, aged 37, was detained along with a 25-year-old man suspected of burglary and another man, aged 45, on suspicion of supplying a controlled drug.

They were held shortly after the body was discovered in Caslon Crescent, Norton.

Police launched their investigation after paramedics were called at 1pm on Saturday to reports of a man suffering a cardiac arrest at a ground floor flat.

The man, aged 44, was declared dead at the scene and ambulance staff called West Midlands Police.

The death is being treated as unexplained while police wait for post mortem results.

All three men have been bailed pending further inquiries.

Residents' dismay at threat of closure

ELDERLY residents who could be forced to leave their council-run care home have told of their dismay at the sudden news.

They said they only found out that New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford was earmarked for closure in the local press. The home could close within three years, along with New Swinford Hall in Stourbridge and New Bridge House in Coseley.

A group of residents and their relatives, led by 78-year-old Harry Griffiths, are fighting the plans which they say will break up their "family".

Mr Griffiths, a retired long distance lorry driver, has only been at the care home, off Stream Road, for around nine months. He was one of the last residents to leave council-run care home Ambleside House after Dudley Council shut it. He was joined at New Bradley Hall by Granville Cotterill, 88, who also had to leave Ambleside House.

The closure plans were due to go before Dudley Council's cabinet for approval on Wednesday night.

Mr Griffiths said residents had been devastated by the news. "It is a disgrace that the only way that we found out it was shutting was in the Express & Star. We just feel in limbo," said Mr Griffiths formerly of Bredon Avenue, in Lye. "We just hope that somehow the council will think again."

**Homes – Page 16**

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## Comedians join festive line-up

BLACK COUNTRY comedians including Tommy Munden and Ian 'Sludge' Lees will be performing in a show to be staged at the Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Munden, aged 77, is continuing to work despite a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease.

Special guests The Crockers will also be at the Black Country Christmas Show.

The event will be held on December 10. Tickets are £10. To book, call the box office on 01384 812812.

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## Colin engineers a degree - at 83

YOU are never too late to learn – just ask Wolverhampton University's oldest graduate Colin Clews.

At 83, he has just achieved his lifelong dream of landing a degree after studying for a qualification in engineering, an industry he has worked in for 50 years.

The grandfather of six said he had loved every minute of his time studying.

"For the three years, I had a thoroughly good time," said Mr Clews. "It takes over your whole life – you don't have time for mowing the lawn or painting and decorating."

"I made a lot of good friends and met a lot of nice people."

"The tutors were awesomely knowledgeable about their subject and the university itself was first class."

Mr Clews decided to study Mechatronics – a mixture of mechanical and electronic engineering – as his own career had been a mixture of the two subjects.

During the Second World War, he trained as an electrician's mate and went on to spend 30 years working at British Federal Welders in Dudley.

## Shoulder

He then moved to the Birmingham branch of Lamb Technicon as Proposals Manager. The company supplied equipment to car manufacturers such as Rover, Ford and Vauxhall.

After retiring at the age of 65, Mr Clews signed up to an Access to Education course at Dudley College but his wife Ivy was taken ill soon after and instead Mr Clews focused on looking after her.

He said after Mrs Clews died, he found himself at a "loose end". "One day I found myself looking over my grandson Jamie's shoulder at some work he was doing for his A-Levels and thought I would like to do something like that," he said.

Mr Clews was based at the university's Telford Campus in Priorslee.

Mr Clews, who achieved a 2:1 in his degree, was joined at his graduation ceremony by daughters Jane and Maggie, son Tony, his sisters and grand-daughters.



Hats off – proud graduate Colin Clews celebrates his achievement at 83

## Pictures of baby scans net cash

HOSPITALS in the Black Country are making tens of thousands by charging mothers-to-be for photograph of their unborn child.

The amount pregnant women pay for pictures from routine scans varies from £3 to £5.

Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, charges £3 per photo which last year brought in more than £35,000. The money went to a charity fund and covered costs and staff training.

David Orme, co-chairman of patient group Dudley Link, said he was keen that money raised was used for charitable purposes.

He added: "Link could consider whether a standardisation of prices could be brought in, and we would be interested in hearing from patients on this matter."

New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton charges £5 per image and at Walsall Hospitals the fee is £3.50.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals charge £3 but will be raising that in the next six months to £5, including a presentation card. Spokeswoman Helen Eden said: "The money goes back into patient care."

## MPs notch up £500,000 bill over one year

MEMBERS of Parliament in the Black Country and Staffordshire have been paid more than half a million pounds in expenses since they were elected a year ago, new figures have revealed.

The latest tranche of claims for second home, travel, office and staff costs for April and May were revealed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

They showed MPs in the area were paid a total of £50,097.82 in expenses during the two months.

Their received a total of £577,420.37 between May 2010 and May 2011.

Unpaid claims were also laid bare – but the data showed no local MPs were found to be in breach of the new rules with their claims rejected.

However, they were braced for extra scrutiny of their expenses by voters.

Across the country there was fresh controversy as it emerged that 69 claims were turned down, or only part reimbursed by officials.

Margot James  
Conservative, Stourbridge

Amount claimed April/May: £3,623.80. Claims included: Office costs including £832.80 for a computer and £666 website design and production. Claims rejected: None. Claims part paid: None. Total for year since May 2010: £26,782.66

regarding the expenses of some 45 MPs.

In total, 27,000 claims were disclosed and MPs paid £3.5million during April and May this year.

Tom Watson, MP for West Bromwich East, claimed £1,304.16 for a service of a PR firm set-up by a former aide to ex-PM Gordon Brown. He said: "I regularly consult my constituents on issues affecting them and their loved ones."

## Money is owed for projects

DUDLEY Council is owed £1.5million for community projects by developers who have been given planning permission for recent building work.

The authority was promised £2m over the last 12 months, but just £531,000 was received in all.

The cash – provided by developers through Section 106 agreements – goes on projects including play areas, road improvements and public art displays.

Each developer has to sign an agreement when given planning consent. The council issued contracts to receive £666,301 for open space, sport and recreation facilities, £290,987 for transport improvements and £64,415 for nature conservation.

Further £617,695 should be spent on affordable housing and £12,000 on public art.

One project for which the council is awaiting cash is the building of 72 homes on the former M & J Drilling Works in Lower Gornal. The council is owed £846,681.

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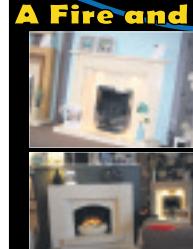
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# Scheme to protect the wildlife at home

INSTALLING special street lamps and creating grassland with wildflowers are among proposals to safeguard wildlife at a Stourbridge ancestral home.

A plan to build 14 houses on land at the 18th century Wordsley Manor, near Stourbridge, stalled seven months ago when councillors insisted on protection for rare slow worms and bat roosting sites.

Developer Selbourne Homes has drawn up a new plan to tackle the issues in a bid to win approval for the planning application.

Managing director Gavin Warr says the firm hopes the proposals will satisfy the borough's planning officers.

## Go online for places at school

PARENTS can apply online for school places for their children in a scheme in Dudley.

From this month, families looking for places for children starting primary school or transferring to secondary school for next year can visit the website [www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions)

Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services Councillor Liz Walker, said the scheme gives greater flexibility to parents.

The authority says paper applications are still available on request.

But it claims the online system makes the process easier.

For families who do not have access to a computer, free drop-in sessions using public computers will be run at libraries across the borough during September and October.

Schools admissions staff will be on hand throughout the sessions to give help and advice.

### Charity taking wing



Nick Owen in front of one of the charity's aircraft

MIDLANDS Air Ambulance opened its air base doors to the public and raised more than £10,000 for the charity.

The airbase at Strensham, Worcestershire staged its ninth annual open day.

BBC Midlands Today host Nick Owen, a long-time supporter of the charity, opened the event. Guests were treated to a tour of the base and its facilities and throughout the day paramedics and pilots were there to give talks about the work they do.

Other activities on Saturday, September 3 included displays by a variety of visiting emergency services and classic cars but the star of the show was the E135 aircraft.

Visitors saw the response speed when the charity was called out to two emergencies during the day.

Annie Newell, area fundraising manager and event organiser said: "It was a truly wonderful day. It was a fantastic to see the crew, staff, volunteers and supporters together and a great way to thank those who fundraise tirelessly for us."

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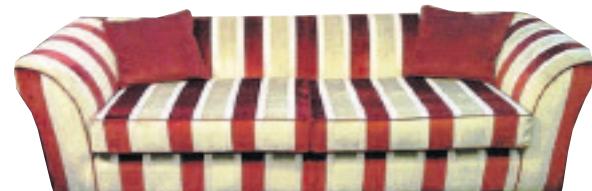
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thechronicle

# Derelict pub could become care home

## Sponsored trot is a thank-you

RIDING fans can get out their best crop and boots for a sponsored trot through the Midland countryside.

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Gothersley Sponsored Ride was organised by stable owners at Gothersley Farm in Stourton to raise money for the Midland Air Ambulance after young rider Sophie Holder, nine, was badly injured when she fell from her pony and had to be airlifted to hospital last May.

"She was trekking with one of her friends when a pheasant flew out from the bushes and actually got under the pony, spooking it," said her mother Tracey, 44, of Lorainer Avenue, Brierley Hill.

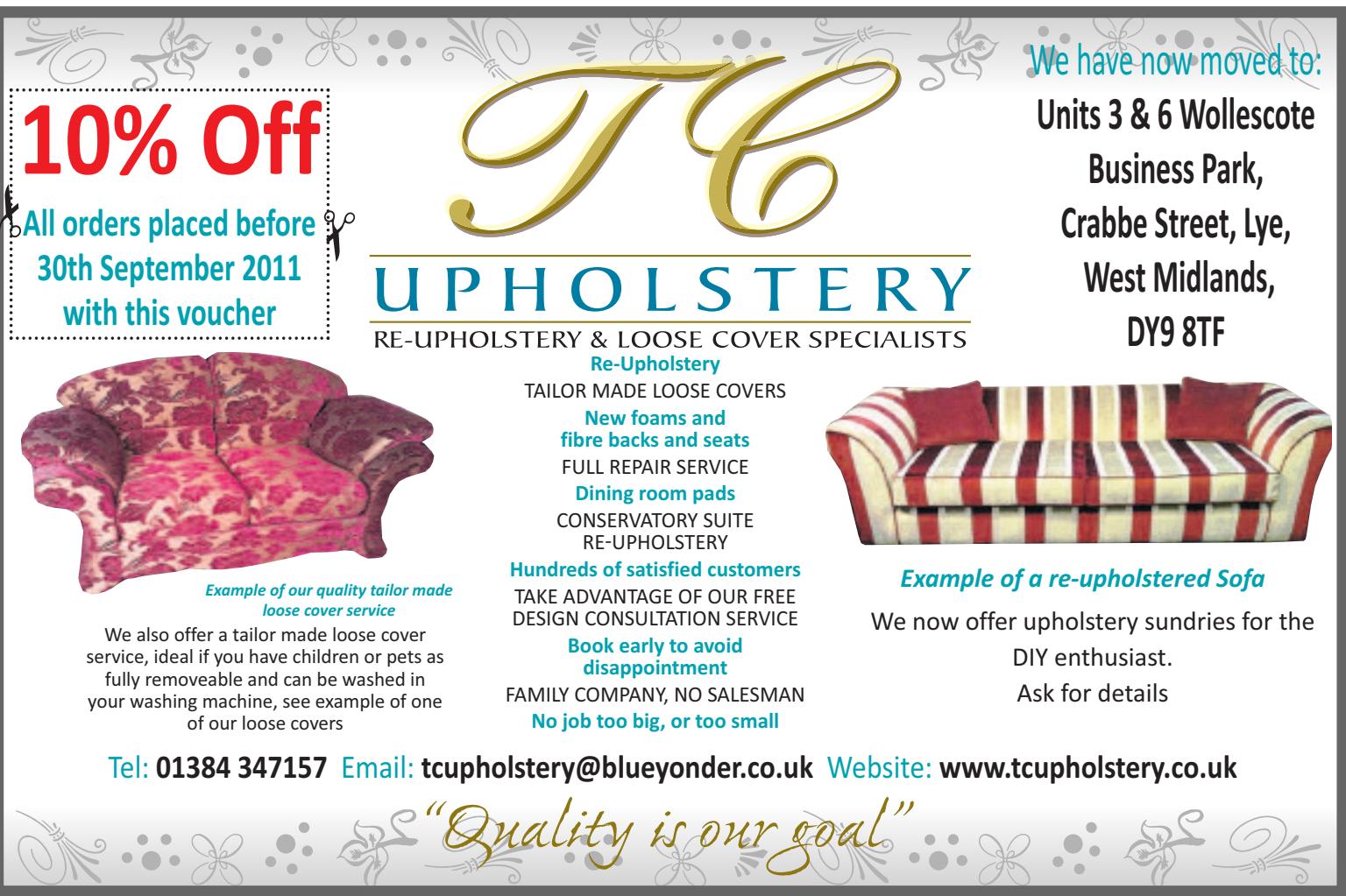
"She fell off and the pony hit her in the face with one of his hooves. She was airlifted to Birmingham Children's Hospital where she had to have plastic surgery.

"We just wanted to say thank you as the Air Ambulance were fantastic."

The ride will set off from the farm on September 18.



Stable-hands Lois Howard and Sophie Holder with nine-year-old Sophie Holder, no relation, who was airlifted to hospital after falling from her horse Ace



## Curry house scores with footballers

A BLACK COUNTRY curry house has been helping footballers in their quest to reach a £700,000 fundraising target.

The Alam International, in Albion Parade, Wall Heath, hosted two charity curry events to raise £1,662 for a huge revamp at Kewford Eagles FC.

The club, which has 500 young players plus adult teams, is planning to build 11 football pitches on land next to

Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club in Wall Heath.

Kewford Eagles welfare officer, Lynn Boleyn, said: "We are extremely grateful to local people like Joe Uddin and Alan Emery at The Alam for their generosity."

"We have already raised around £500,000 and we are hoping that work will start early next year."

# Major Lottery grant saves advice centre

A COUNSELLING and advice centre in Stourbridge, which was facing closure due to funding cuts, has been saved after receiving a £293,000 Lottery grant.

The cash will help The What? Centre in Stourbridge continue working with youngsters for three years.

Manager Julie Duffy said it was the "start of a new era" for the site. The centre provides advice on such issues as housing, employment, training and health for people aged 13-25.

The service also has a contract with Dudley Primary Care Trust to provide counselling to young people.

Mrs Duffy said: "The Lottery bid was very hard work and took months of preparation, but this has paid off. The funding is to cover some of the counselling, employment and training advice, to build on the young people's forum and to start some new work with parents."

The centre was left under threat after a £47,000 grant from Dudley Council was stopped last year.

## Jessica gets to work at the zoo

TEENAGER Jessica Brookes found out what life is like at Dudley Zoo as part of a work experience placement.

The 16-year-old of Greensforge Lane, Stourton, near Stourbridge, spent a week at the attraction.

Jessica, who is to study at King Edward Sixth Form College, Stourbridge, spent time with keepers, marketing, retail and the press office.

She shadowed keeping staff for two days, including work on the farm and primates sections, plus birds and big cats.

Head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman, said: "It's very rare that we take on students for a week-long placement. But Jessica really did her homework and impressed us." Jessica said: "I was tired at the end of each day, but I loved it."



Student Jessica Brookes shadowed Dudley Zoo staff

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## Now fewer complain to council

ALMOST 90 complaints were made by the public against Dudley Council last year new figures show.

A report from the Local Government Ombudsman shows there were 88 complaints in the 2010-11 financial year, compared with 91 the previous year.

It said the council had an average 21.1 day response time, within the 28-day target set by the Ombudsman.

Councillor Tim Wright, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for human resources, law and governance, said: "We pride ourselves on doing an excellent job here at Dudley Council, but of course when things go wrong we do our best to settle the matter as quickly as possible."

Local authority chiefs say the report praised the way the council deals with complaints.

If formal complaints arise, people should use the council's internal complaints procedure by filling in a form, called At Your Service, available from council offices or online at: [www.dudley.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-feedback](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-feedback)

## Word burner spark thought to have started scrap fire

ARTIFICIAL grass caught fire in a blaze in a container at a Black Country scrap yard.

Firefighters were called out to the site on Bott Lane in Lye at 5pm last Friday.

They said tyres were also in the container which was ablaze.

It is thought the fire may have been started as a result of a spark from a wood burner nearby. It did not spread anywhere else on the site.

Crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill went out to revisit the site at around 10pm to check there were no signs of the fire starting up again.



The anchor on its way to Netherton

# Titanic operation gets anchor to a new home

A 16-TON REPLICA of the Titanic anchor has been moved back to the place where the original was manufactured ahead of a public celebration.

The 18ft long anchor will be officially unveiled at its new home in Netherton as part of Netherton Nautical Day which takes place on Saturday.

The structure was moved out of the Black Country Living Museum on Sunday morning and taken the two miles to the town by flat-bed truck.

Halesowen Road and Northfield Road, near to Netherton Arts Centre, were closed between 6am and 2pm while the anchor was moved into place.

It was fenced off with work due to take place on the structure this week.

The original was manufactured in Netherton and is hailed as an important piece of the region's history.

### Construction

The replica anchor was built for a Channel 4 programme delving into the history of the construction of the passenger ship.

Netherton Nautical Day will feature market stalls, street theatre, and a display on the history of the Titanic.

The original anchor was transported from Noah Hingley & Sons' works in Netherton to the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast to be fitted to the doomed liner, which sank in 1912.

## Diamond day for couple

A DIAMOND couple from Dudley who met on a farm have now celebrated 60 years of wedding bliss.

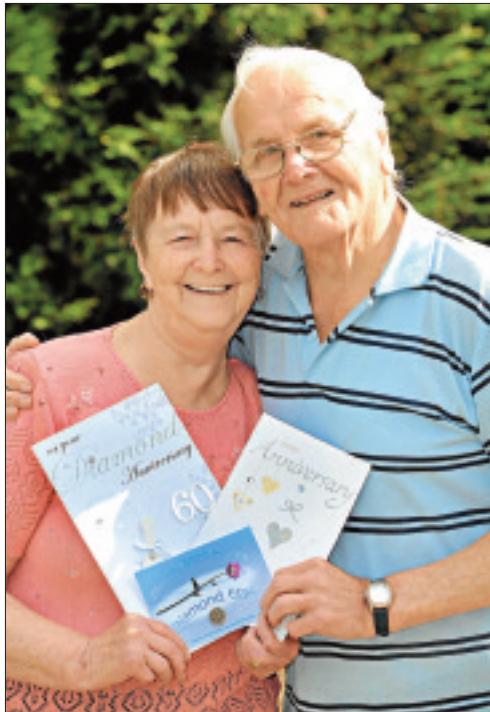
Albert and Marion Hickman, of Cypress Road, reached the milestone on September 1. To celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary they had a party with friends and family at Dudley Ex-Servicemen's Club, in Hall Street.

Marion, now aged 81, met Albert, 87, while she was picking hops on a farm in Hereford where he worked. They went to St John's Church, in St John's Road, Kates Hill.

Marion said: "We've had our ups and downs but we help one another out and do lots of things together. I like cooking, he likes gardening and we've been on lots of holidays together."

The couple have seven children, 18 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great grandchildren.

Albert was a bricklayer while Marion cleaned a shop and offices.



Albert and Marion Hickman celebrating their diamond wedding

## Crews to double up after attacks

TWO fire engines are going to 999 calls on a Black Country estate to provide back-up for crews following a spate of attacks on firefighters.

Yobs have been throwing stones at crews attending in the Wren's Nest area of Dudley.

A firefighter was left with broken ribs after youths were spotted throwing a brick at Wrens Nest Nature Reserve.

Another had a bruised collarbone after stones were thrown.

Both incidents happened within a day of each other last month.

As a result two fire engines are currently sent out to jobs in the Wren's Nest area.

Dudley fire station watch commander Mark Smith said: "We are there to do a job."

### Spread

"Sometimes these fires have been set deliberately to get us out there," he added.

"Sometimes they do not realise they can spread very quickly."

The incident with the bries happened on August 22 while the stone throwing injury happened the following day.

In June last year drunken yobs pelted a fire engine with stones after a crew tackled a rubbish blaze at the Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett.

Firefighters were attacked around 200 times last year.

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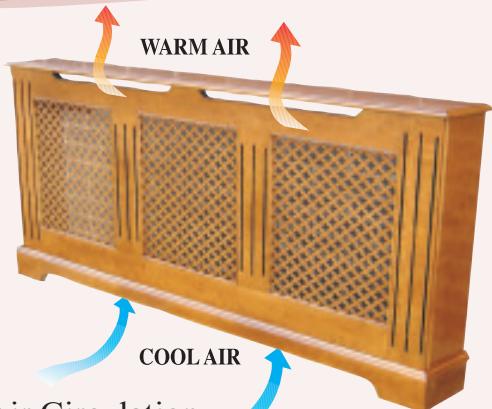
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## COMPETITION

# Trot along to enjoy horse show extras

THIS year's Horse of the Year Show features various new additions and promises to be another exceptional event not to be missed.

New this year is the 2011 Express Eventing Final! This promises to be an exciting new addition to HOYS on October 4, where visitors can witness the compact version of eventing under one roof.

Also new for this year, the Think Like a Pony Interactive Feature Area where the team will be on hand to provide demonstrations and answer your questions.

In addition, HOYS will also play host to the Household Cavalry Musical Ride. A spectacular military tradition which leaves a lump in your throat and a wave of Rule Britannia! washing over you - it is a true highlight of the day.

show.

The Chronicle series has teamed up with the show organisers to offer nine readers the chance to win a pair of tickets so they can experience the 'world's most famous horse show' first hand.

This year's show will take place from Tuesday, October 4 to Sunday, October 9, at Birmingham's NEC and will host the finals of the most highly-regarded showing and show jumping championships, alongside an exciting line-up of equestrian entertainment.

The Osborne Refrigerators Double Harness Scurry Racing and the exhilarating Equimax Pony Club

A dynamic photograph of a horse and rider performing a jump. The horse is a light brown color with a white blaze on its forehead and white socks on its lower legs. It is captured mid-air, leaping over a decorative obstacle. The obstacle consists of a red brick wall with white decorative elements on top, including small trees and flags. The rider is wearing a red competition bib and a helmet. The background shows a blurred audience in the stands, and the arena floor is a light-colored sand or dirt.



---

**HOW TO ENTER**

### HOW TO ENTER

What are the two main attractions?

*What are the two new attractions?*

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## Stepping out for charity

WALKERS will stride out across a Stourbridge park for a charity event next at the weekend.

The Alzheimer's Society Memory walk is being held at Mary Stevens Park, on Saturday (September 17). It is open to all ages and starts at noon.

Charity spokeswoman Emma Dowler said: "Memory Walk is a fantastic way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Additionally we have classic cars, a balloon launch and zumba warm-up."

The Memory Walk is the society's biggest annual fundraiser, funding home support, carers groups, research and social activities.

# New postal routes rolled out in region

NEW POSTAL delivery routes are being rolled out across the West Midlands and Staffordshire as part of an overhaul of services in the region.

Changes to the mail delivery service are being introduced by Royal Mail over the next 18 months.

First up is Dudley, where the changes are already under way.

As well as alterations to routes, more postal workers are set to head out on their rounds in vans or with a trolley to deliver items rather than using traditional mail bags.

Bosses said the changes were being made because fewer letters are being posted, with more larger items such as parcels going through the mail system which can be difficult for postmen to carry in their bags. It is not known

when the new routes will be rolled out elsewhere in the region.

The changes in Dudley won't lead to a reduction in the number of workers and the number of routes will be the same.

However, some householders who were at the start of a route may now find themselves at the end of one.

## Lunchtime

Although Royal Mail says many customers will continue to get their mail by lunchtime, the time will depend on where they are on the new delivery route.

The changes came into force this week in Dudley and are expected to be fully implemented within a few weeks.

Letters are being sent to customers to tell them of the changes.

Business groups and councillors are also being informed.

Royal Mail's collections and delivery sector manager, Roy Sylvester said: "We are proud of the high regard in which our postmen and women are held in Dudley."

"These changes to our delivery routes mean that members of our local and experienced team will still be delivering to our customers in Dudley."

"The local delivery team and I are fully committed to providing a high quality of service that is as reliable and friendly as customers have come to expect from Royal Mail in Dudley over many years."

Royal Mail bosses say the changes will require a "period of adjustment for staff" but they will be doing everything possible to maintain a high level of service for customers.

## Postie who delivers tradition on round



Postman Gary Talbot, deputy mayor of Stourport, wears a more traditional uniform

THESE DAYS the sight of a postman strolling the streets of the West Midlands in full uniform is a rare occurrence.

But one postie is happy to tip a nod to years gone by. Stourport's deputy mayor Councillor Gary Talbot still wears a cap, long sleeves, tie and long trousers for his day job making deliveries around the town.

The father-of-one says the traditional look proves a hit with his customers. Councillor Talbot, of Gibbons Crescent, started with Royal Mail in 1994.

He was issued with a standard cap and tie to wear as he made deliveries from his Stourport office.

While over the years uniforms rules have changed he has managed to retain his favoured attire.

He said: "I am one of the relatively few postmen now who still wear a peaked cap, tie, long-sleeved shirt and long trousers, on the basis that my customers deserve to have their postman looking like an postman."

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## Burglar found sawing away at school pipe

A BURGLAR was caught sawing through metal pipes at a Brierley Hill school by a worker carrying out refurbishment of the site, a court heard.

Anthony Price entered a sealed-off building at Brierley Hill Primary School and started to cut into the heating system.

But he was disturbed by an employee from construction firm ISG who had arrived at the site, in Hawbush Road, to start work for the day.

Dudley Magistrates Court was told on September 5 that the worker had called out to Price, believing him to be another member of staff.

Price ran past him in a panic. He was arrested by police three weeks later and was identified by the worker in a line-up, the court heard.

Price, of Leyes Road, Brockmoor, pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary with intent to steal.

## Permission

Mrs Clare Davis, prosecuting, said damage had been caused to the heating system inside the building following the break-in at around 7.20pm on May 30.

"This part of the school building was closed off at the time for refurbishment work to take place and only construction staff had permission to enter."

Price had originally pleaded not guilty to the charge but changed his plea before a trial which was due to be held on September 6.

The case was adjourned until September 23 for a pre-sentence report to be prepared.

## Police bill is lost in translation

WEST Midlands Police is cutting the amount it spends on interpreters by almost half.

The force is to slash its £1.8million a year bill as part of cost-cutting measures in the wake of crippling budget reductions.

Senior officers are trying to save £126m over the next four years and said it can save £750,000 on interpreters.

Under the new plans, interpreters will see their hourly rates cut from £32 to a minimum of £16, the abolition of a minimum two-hour payment and the removal of travelling time payments and travel expenses.

Chief Superintendent Steve Anderson said: "We do recognise that many of our interpreters have given excellent service to West Midlands Police and feel nervous about the new arrangements, but we are confident that over the next couple of months their fears will be allayed."

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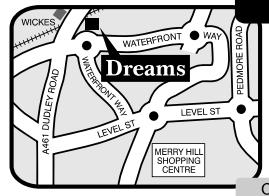
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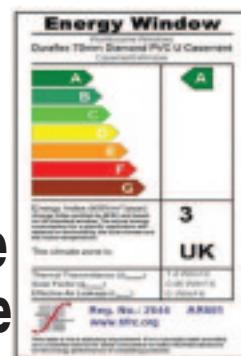
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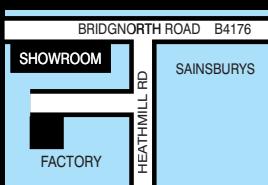
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# Talented pupils get their big break on TV drama



Gregory Piper and Jordyn-Eve Davis-Greene with their teacher Esther Stanford

## Accent placed on tracing our regional dialect

THE West Midlands' linguistic heritage is set to be explored in a new research project comparing the way today's residents speak to text from an ancient medieval manuscript originating from the area.

The research by the University of Birmingham is looking at how far people in the region share the language of their predecessors captured in the Vernon Manuscript, the only surviving late-medieval English manuscript.

Written in the West Midlands dialect around 1400AD, the lavishly illustrated document contains more than 350 texts spread over 700 pages and weighs a whopping 22kg.

Made up of a collection of poetry and prose, the manuscript was created by two regional scribes aiming to make religious texts accessible to local non-Latin speakers.

Researchers were staging sessions in Wolverhampton and Walsall to invite the viewing of images of pages from the manuscript and reading of some of the texts, putting today's accents to the test and unlocking their origins.

### Forgotten

Sessions were being held in Wolverhampton Library yesterday and at Walsall Museum's education room in Lichfield Street today and tomorrow.

Research scholar, Luke Darbyshire from the university's English department, said: "The Vernon Manuscript is an important, but forgotten, aspect of our local culture and history.

"We are investigating the relationship between the dialect of the Vernon Manuscript and the language of the modern West Midlands. "We are expecting to find that some common regional pronunciations and dialectical features present today stem from the medieval English used at the time of the manuscript."

"Remember ID cards can be faked, so it's best to check the caller's identity by ringing a number you've found from another source."

Contact Luke on 0121 415 8662 or email lxd974@bham.ac.uk

## Password scheme to beat theft

WATER company bosses are offering homeowners in the West Midlands a new way to defeat bogus callers knocking on their doors.

Distraction burglars often claim to be from a utility company to gain entry. They deliberately target the elderly or vulnerable who can be easily confused and tricked.

Now Severn Trent customers are being encouraged to contact the company to set up a password.

Customers who decide to set up a password can feel safer in the knowledge that if a Severn Trent employee genuinely needs access to their home, he or she will know the chosen word.

Martin Kane of Severn Trent said: "Even if you haven't signed up for a password, there are ways you can protect yourself against these criminals."

"Our employees fully expect to be asked to show you an identity card and wait outside while you carry out the necessary checks. Severn Trent employees will never pressure you to open the door."

"Remember ID cards can be faked, so it's best to check the caller's identity by ringing a number you've found from another source."

A PAIR of young Black Country actors have won parts in a new BBC drama starring Neil Morrissey and Gina McKee.

Gregory Piper, aged 13, from Dudley, and Jordyn-Eve Davis-Greene, 11, of Stourbridge, have roles in the five-part BBC2 show *Line of Duty*.

Written and produced by Jed Mercurio, the creator of *Bodies* and *Cardiac Arrest*, the series – based on a mistaken police shooting – will air early next year.

Windsor High pupil Gregory, of Haden Close, plays Ryan Pilkinson, a troubled youngster who gets caught up in the action.

He will appear in every episode and is at the centre of a major storyline when he takes a character hostage.

His fellow drama school pupil Jordyn-Eve, of Whittington Road, also has a part in the crime series.

She will play Natalie Tate, the daughter of a corrupt detective inspector played by Lennie James.

It was the pair's first audition and both are looking forward to appearing on television for the first time.

### Scary

Gregory said: "It was quite scary having to audition in front of a room full of people. I've done school plays before, but nothing like this."

Jordyn-Eve said: "When they called me and told me I had got the part it was one of the happiest moments of my life. I was very nervous but the camera crew were all really nice and made me feel more relaxed."

Gregory and Jordyn-Eve both attend the group Dramaworkshop, run by Esther Stanford, 33, and based at Chawn Hill Church in Stourbridge.

Miss Stanford said: "They have done so well in such a short space of time so I'm really delighted for them."

"It's a great endorsement of all the hard work they have been putting in."

Miss Stanford set up the drama group a year ago, having appeared in shows such as *EastEnders*, *The Bill* and *Heartbeat*.

Dramaworkshop is linked to First Act Workshops in Birmingham, which arranges its auditions. Gregory and Jordyn-Eve, who starts Redhill School in Stourbridge in September, will be busy filming for the show in Coventry until November.

The show is expected to be screened early next year.

Mosque plan is recommended for a refusal

PLANS for a mosque in Dudley look set to be refused – but council chiefs are offering Muslim leaders another three years to resubmit proposals.

The £6million scheme for the site in Hall Street, Dudley will go before the council later this month and has been recommended for refusal.

Dudley Council planning officers say the plans "fail to make a positive contribution" to the area. Outline planning permission for the site in Hall Street, Dudley was secured at appeal in 2008 after the council originally threw the plans out.

Dudley Muslim Association was then required to submit a more detailed application – set to be rejected by the development control committee on September 19.

But an application to extend the outline permission by three years has been earmarked for approval.

The complex would include leisure facilities, open to non-Muslims, two cafes, a multi-use sports hall, a gym, a nursery and an exhibition of Muslim beliefs.

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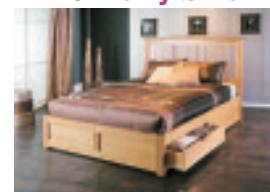
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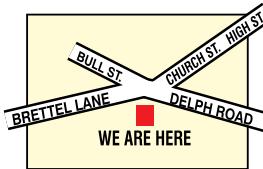
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## Stolen Toby is reunited with family

A FAMILY from Halesowen have been reunited with their pet dog after it was stolen while they were on holiday—and have spoken of their delight at having him back home.

Three-year-old Toby, a Bichon Frise, was snatched from owner Peter Mills's mother's garden in West Bromwich on August 21. He was discovered tangled in brambles by a woman and her grandson near the Ridgacre pub in New Gas Street, West Bromwich, a week after he disappeared. They spotted a newspaper article about the theft and called the family to say Toby was safe and well.

He has now been reunited with Mr Mills, his wife Debbie and their children Sian, 18, and Josh, 16, at their home in Manor Lane, Halesowen.

Since returning he has been back playing with his best friend Pippa, the family's other white three-year-old Bichon Frise.

Sian, who is about to start a child nursing course at Leicester's De Montfort University, said: "We didn't think we would ever see him again but we were so happy when he came back. It was great to see him back again. He is still quite afraid of men but he is getting better."

The family believe Toby may have been abandoned by the people who snatched him when they realised he was neutered and would not be able to breed.

Mrs Mills said they had been through turmoil—a woman in Rowley Regis telephoned after finding a Bichon Frise but it turned out not to be Toby. Then a second call came. She said: "As soon as we opened the door we knew it was him and he ran up to us with his tail wagging."



Sian Mills with Toby

# Thieves dognap £10k pups and their mother



Maria Smallman and daughter Donna with the lock torn off the gate



The Smallman family's pet Dogue De Bordeaux Tia and her valuable pups

DOGS worth £10,000 were stolen from a Sandwell home in the latest case of dognapping in the Black Country. The nine Dogue De Bordeaux puppies and their mother were taken from an unlocked shed in a back garden in Tipton.

The thieves, who broke two padlocks on a back gate to get into the garden, also stole a dog lead that had been left on the fence. Last week the Chronicle reported how dognappings had doubled in the past year, with thieves targeting people selling litters over the internet.

Donna Smallman, aged 16, was in the St Mark's Road home on her own at the time of the latest theft, at about 9.30pm on Monday, September 5 and believes she may have seen the culprit.

She said: "I had just come back to the house after meeting my friend and was in the living room when I saw this man through the window go round to our back gate.

"I looked out the window and saw him running away from the house.

"He went towards a car but I couldn't see if he got in. I could not see anything in his hands."

"I opened the front door and the car had gone. I didn't want to go outside because I was too scared," she added.

Donna's parents Maria and John Smallman, both 53, were out shopping at the time of the theft.

### Feeding

They bought the puppies' mother, called Tia, about eight months ago and she gave birth last month. Mr and Mrs Smallman had not advertised the sale of the puppies on the internet.

Although Tia cost them just £200, Mr and Mrs Smallman said all the dogs were each worth about £1,000.

"We're absolutely devastated," said Mrs Smallman. "I just could not believe someone could do something like this. They have taken the mother knowing the puppies are still feeding off her."

"We have been driving around the streets looking for them but we have had no luck."

Charity Animal Search UK has said reports of dog thefts across the country have jumped from around 30 a day to between 60 and 100 a day.

Anyone with information should call 0345 1135000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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### How to re-tune using your TV remote



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Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option. If you see picture icons, select the tool box, satellite dish or spanner. If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.

Select the **full re-tune** option. This is sometimes called 'first time installation', 'factory reset', 'default settings' or 'shipping conditions'. Do not select 'channel update' or 'add channels'. Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.

Channels will automatically be installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.

These instructions are a guide only. Product specific instructions can be found at [digitaluk.co.uk/retuning](http://digitaluk.co.uk/retuning).

For more information on re-tuning call 08456 50 50 50

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\*Includes BT Vision or Top Up TV equipment. Any sets receiving satellite and cable TV will not be affected by this change. Calls are free for BT customers within inclusive calling plans. Call charges from other providers may vary.

## Trust sets £1m target from sale of its buildings

HEALTH chiefs in Dudley plan to raise more than a £1million from the sale of two former medical centres and a care home. Two of the buildings are in Stourbridge.

All three buildings have already closed after being deemed surplus to requirements by bosses at Dudley Primary Care Trust. Interested parties must put in their bids by the end of the month.

The former Brierley Hill health centre in Albion Street, has been given a price tag of £450,000.

Offers of around £350,000 could secure West Hill clinic, off Hagley Road, Stourbridge, and a former care home in Mere Road, Norton, Stourbridge, is on for £265,000. All properties are listed with Stourbridge-based estate agent The Lee, Shaw Partnership.

Dudley Primary Care Trust spokeswoman Laura Broster said: "There is a closing date for offers on the building as this is usual practice when selling buildings of this nature."

"Interested parties submit bids for the buildings and we then review which, if any, of the offers is most acceptable."

"As these properties were no longer suitable, the services that used to be in them have moved."

"As a public body we have to achieve the very best price on disposal of our assets."

### Fire cuts 'cannot be met'

CUTS in fire service budgets in the West Midlands could not be met even if the region's fire service headquarters at Nechells, Birmingham was shut completely, claims the chairman of the region's fire authority.

Councillor John Edwards, who sits on Sandwell Council, said that West Midlands Fire Service had been hit with £10million in government funding cuts between 2011 and 2013 with a further £20m expected to be taken off it up 2015.

Cuts are expected to lead to the loss of 400 uniformed firefighters by 2015 as a recruitment freeze means 80 firefighters posts disappear each year.

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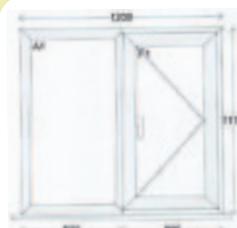
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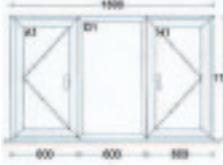
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# Council shuts three homes

## Pete's chance of fame



Pete Boddis at his First Floor Vintage music store

VETERAN Stourbridge singer-songwriter Pete Boddis, aged 67, is having another stab at fame after playing gigs in the Black Country for more than 40 years.

He has made it to the regional final of the Open Mic UK contest on October 29. If he gets through, his final is at London's O2 Arena in January. The winner gets a recording contract.

Mr Boddis, of Wollaston, runs the First Floor Vintage record and guitar shop in Lower High Street, Stourbridge.

Married with one son, he will prepare for his big night by playing with the Jazziatrics at the Harvest Festival in Stourbridge town centre on Saturday (September 17).

THREE of the last remaining council-run care homes in Dudley borough – including one in Stourbridge – will close over the next three years, Dudley Council announced.

It plans to shut New Swinford Hall in Stourbridge, New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford and New Bridge House in Coseley by April 2014.

The homes have a total of 63 beds, which are a mixture of long and short stay.

Last month, the council announced that the 41-bed long-stay Shenstone House in Halesowen would close in March 2012.

Tiled House Care Home in Pensnett and Amblecote House, near Stourbridge also shut last year.

The only council home left will be Russells Court in Dudley, which will take on a extra 31 short-stay beds.

The council says it will look into the question of whether staff can be redeployed at other sites.

### Confident

New Bradley Hall in Stream Road, which provides long-stay accommodation, will shut in 2013, while short-stay homes New Bridge House in Bay Street and New Swinford Hall, Martley Drive will close in either 2013 or 2014.

Councillor Lesley Faulkner, cabinet member for adult and community services, said: 'Of course, news of any home closure is regrettable.'

'But I am confident that we are directing our resources at the areas of service that will make the greatest impact on helping people to live in homes of their choice.'

## Address puts man in prison

A MAN who admitted damaging security barriers at a hospital has been jailed for 14 days after being caught giving a previous address to the court.

Andrew Fletcher, aged 30, was captured on CCTV bending the two barriers at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital out of shape at around 2.55am on Aug 29, causing £300 damage.

Fletcher pleaded guilty to criminal damage at Dudley Magistrates Court.

He was sentenced to a six-month community order, given a 7pm-7am curfew to run for eight weeks and ordered to pay £300 compensation and £85 costs.

But he then asked for the curfew to run at a house in Bushey Fields Road, Dudley, rather than the home address in Overfield Road given previously.

When it was queried, Fletcher admitted he had not lived at the Overfield Road address for around a month. He was immediately sent to the cells for contempt of court.

## Thousands at the classic show



Chris Unitt, left, with his 1924 Model T Ford and Martin Monaghan, showing off his 1953 Ford Prefect at the Himley Hall classic car show



Graham Gamble and his Easy Rider-style replica Panzer bike signed by Peter Fonda

CLASSIC cars and vintage vehicles headed into a popular beauty spot for an annual show.

More than 3,000 people flocked to the grounds of Himley Hall to see over 750 vehicles, including buses and cars.

Organiser Geoff Price said: 'Everyone seems to have been enjoying themselves and the weather held off for periods, so I'm happy.'

Among the exhibitors was Chris Unitt, aged 46, who was there with a 1924 Model

T Ford which he has restored with modern parts, including an axle from an E-Type Jaguar.

The lorry driver from Darlaston bought the car after it had fallen into disrepair being used in "hot rod" competitions.

One of the most popular attractions was a replica Panzer 1490cc motorbike – as seen in the 1969 film Easy Rider.

It is signed by the film's star Peter Fonda, and owned by Graham Gamble, 53, of Seisdon.

## Plans for facelift at station

DETAILED plans are being drawn up for a £14,000 facelift of an ageing bus station as bosses prepare for work to begin later in the year.

Travel firm Centro is developing a scheme to improve Gornal Wood Station following successful talks with Dudley Council officials a few months ago.

And the company revealed they were looking at possible changes to the layout when the four existing shelters are replaced.

Officials said they wanted to study "all possible options" at the site before putting forward a final proposal for the project.

Residents have been calling for the station to be improved for years as existing stands at the site starting to become worn.

As part of the scheme all four of the shelters will be torn up and new modern ones installed. Lighting at the station, in the heart of Gornal, will be upgraded to improve security.

Hundreds of commuters use the bus station every week and plans to update the station have been ongoing between Centro and Dudley Council for months.

Centro spokesman Steve Swiniger said no date had yet been set for the work to begin but scheme details were being put together.

## Watchman earns his first stripe

THE mascot of the former Staffordshire Regiment has been promoted to Lance Corporal as a reward for good behaviour. Staffordshire Bull Terrier Watchman V took over at 3 Merca (Staffords) last October.

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# New railcard for couples goes on sale

THE BLACK COUNTRY and Birmingham has been chosen to trial a new railcard which will give passengers a third off train tickets. There are 78 train stations across the West Midlands taking part.

The project, known as the Two Together Railcard, is thought to be the first of its kind in the country.

## Harry, 10, climbs England's big peak

A BLACK COUNTRY 10-year-old has raised £275 by climbing England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike.

Harry Vincent, a pupil at Hurst Green Primary School in Halesowen, took on the challenge for children's disability charity Newlife Foundation.

But he couldn't take in the spectacular views from the summit – the cloud was too low.

Harry took seven hours to complete the 16km walk and climb with his father Steven. The money has helped to buy sensory equipment for the charity's centre in Cannock.

Harry, of Halesowen, was sponsored by family and friends along with teachers and pupils at his school, who were introduced to the charity during a morning assembly.

He said: "We were lucky to have good weather on the day, although we couldn't see anything from the top."

It sees a couple, pair of friends or family members travelling together pay £28 for a card and then receive a third off all standard and first-class anytime, off-peak and advance fares for off-peak travel throughout the country.

The region was chosen for a trial of the new scheme because of the high number of rail users and its central geographic location with good rail links across the whole of Britain.

The railcard will be available to purchase from this month until May of next year.

### Staffed

It is for two named individuals who must be travelling together and their photos must be on the railcard.

Under the scheme, the cost of two off-peak single tickets from Birmingham New Street to London Euston would be cut from £86.60 to £57.74.

Residents can buy railcards from 78 selected staffed stations including Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham.

A Railcards spokesman said: "We hope this railcard will increase train travel regionally and, if successful we will look at rolling it out across the country."

For further details visit [www.twotogether-railcard.co.uk](http://www.twotogether-railcard.co.uk)

**Just lend a hand to our furry friends**



Martyn Thomas and Eve Lees appeal for volunteers at the PDSA charity shop in Stourbridge

A PET charity shop is appealing for new volunteers to help run its Stourbridge shop.

PDSA has a store in the Ryemarke Shopping Centre but is currently short of staff. The charity provides free veterinary care to the sick and injured pets of people who need financial support.

Store manager Maria Perry said: "We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are passionate about pets and who can lend a hand."

"Volunteering for PDSA is fun and the skills you learn look great on any CV, plus you get to meet plenty of new people and make some friends along the way."

No retail experience is needed as training will be provided. Visit [www.pdsa.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/volunteering) or call the store on 01384 442953 for more details.

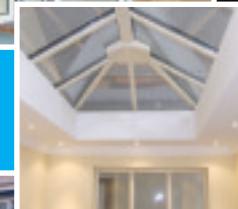
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## Cruising for the big prize

PRIZES including a free cruise and a magnum of champagne are up for grabs at Hagley, travel agent Mercian Travel as it celebrates its official re-launch.

Staff at the business have put together a packed week of events which began on Tuesday and run until Saturday and are inviting local residents and business travellers to come along and get involved in the fun.

Today's events at Mercian Travel, based on Worcester Road, have been reserved for corporate clients, with representatives from Lufthansa Group, Virgin Atlantic, Turkish Airlines and Travelcube also due to be present.

Long haul and luxury travel will be the theme of tomorrow's activities while Saturday will be given over to families, complete with games and face painting for the children.

There will also be an opportunity to hear from Whiteside Ski Holidays, which is working with Mercian to offer Polish ski holidays.

Prizes on offer include a cruise, gift vouchers and champagne.

# Historic mosaic to get facelift before return

AN HISTORIC work of art will be returned to a Stourbridge shopping centre after a £50million redevelopment of the site – and is to undergo a restoration of its own.

A mosaic depicting Stourbridge's coat of arms dating from the 1920s, will be removed from its long-term home at Stourbridge's Crown Centre before work at the site begins.

And bosses at Tesco revealed their plans for the artwork for the first time. Spokesman Jonathan Simpson said: "We plan to restore and re-site it within the new mall."

Officials said arrangements had been made for the piece to be removed from the floor of the existing Crown Centre.

It will be restored to repair cracks and other damage suffered over the years. Eventually it will be installed in the new-look mall.

It will be placed at the entrance to the centre close to a new food court.

A date has not yet been set for work to begin.

But Tesco says another artwork in the centre, a mechanical clock installed in 2005, is unlikely to be returned to the site when the redevelopment is finished.

The clock was installed in 2005 to celebrate the town's glass and locomotive-building heritage.

Bosses from Tesco say they made a commitment to move the clock to a new site.

The venue will be decided on by Dudley Council.

The Stourbridge mosaic

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The drama unfolded as Sally Mallen, aged 17, tried to dig up a tree root at the home of her sister, Michelle Bingham.

She was tackling the job at the bottom of the back garden with her boyfriend Tom Millett-Kirkham, 18, when she uncovered the grenade, which had its pin removed.

Miss Mallen, a Stourbridge College student, showed the device to her boyfriend, who carried it to the house. She said: "I thought 'That looks like a bomb' but I never thought there was a danger."

Police evacuated homes within a 100m radius and cordoned off the road for 90 minutes on Wednesday, September 7.

The grenade was found to have no charge.

## Grenade found in the garden

A STOURBRIDGE student found herself at the centre of a bomb alert when she uncovered a grenade while digging a garden.

More than 30 homes were evacuated in Addison Road, Brierley Hill as a bomb disposal unit raced to the property.

The drama unfolded as Sally Mallen, aged 17, tried to dig up a tree root at the home of her sister, Michelle Bingham.

She was tackling the job at the bottom of the back garden with her boyfriend Tom Millett-Kirkham, 18, when she uncovered the grenade, which had its pin removed.

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Police evacuated homes within a 100m radius and cordoned off the road for 90 minutes on Wednesday, September 7.

The grenade was found to have no charge.



Tom and Sally in the garden where they found the grenade

## Plans for speed cut under scrutiny

PLANS to reduce speed limits on two busy roads in Stourbridge and Halesowen will be scrutinised by a highways chief this month.

The new speed restrictions are being considered for the A459 Dudley Road/Haden Hill Road, in Halesowen, and the A451 Norton Road, in Norton, near Stourbridge.

Dudley Council wants to reduce the limits to improve safety for pedestrians.

Residents have been consulted about the plans but the authority's highways department says no raised concerns.

Limits will drop from 60mph to 40mph on Norton Road from its boundary with Worcestershire to an existing 40mph stretch up to the junction with Racecourse Lane.

### Boundary

Drivers will find the 40mph limit on the A459 cut to 30mph if the proposals are approved. Limits on the A459 within Sandwell are presently 30mph and Dudley Council says it wants to create uniform standards along the road.

The reduced limit will run from the traffic island at Mucklow Hill along the Dudley Road before reaching the Sandwell boundary.

Dudley cabinet member for transport, Councillor Patrick Harley, will consider the plans on September 27. The cost to Dudley Council would be around £5,000 and come from the minor capital works budget.

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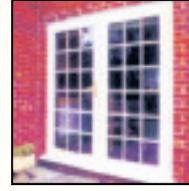
Door Panels

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Handles and Mechanisms

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## Self-serve checkout on way at libraries

A ROLL-OUT programme which will see more people in Dudley borough check out their own library books is continuing.

Coseley and Gornal Libraries are to receive the equipment. Coseley Library will shut for a week from September 19-26 for installation and self-service will go live on September 30.

During the closure week, work will be carried out to the ICT networks and the counter moved.

Gornal Library was having its self-service machine installed this week. Self-service will go live at Gornal Library on September 21.

Councillor Adrian Turner, cabinet member for housing, libraries and adult learning, said: "Self-service technology is all about providing a better customer experience for visitors."

"Self-service will allow visitors a quick and easy way to issue and return books and is primarily designed to free up staff time so they can focus on helping visitors with enquiries."

## Why Orrie tips the scales



On the scales are Orrie and keeper Adam Walker, with Lorraine Magee, centre, and, back from left, Paula Perrins, Jayne Blore, Jill Timmins, Amanda Lemon, Rachel Smith and Anne Woodward

SLIMMING consultants Zoo. "It's a very acceptable weight for a sea lion in his prime," she added.

"Rather like humans, the aim is to keep lions to a regular and constant healthy weight."

"Orrie's handsome physique is due to a balanced diet with plenty of fresh fish and lots of exercise," she said.

"Keepers make sure he jumps on the scales once a week to maintain that

weight of his female friends," said Jill Hitchman of Dudley level."

Paula Perrins, who runs a community Slimming World group at Hagley Primary School, Hagley on Thursdays at 7.30pm said: "Lots of men mistakenly think that slimming clubs are just for women."

"When men do come along to Slimming World, research shows they lose weight even faster than women," she added.

Slimming World details: Call 07846 847068 or visit [www.slimmingworld.com](http://www.slimmingworld.com)

## Park bar for rowdy youths

GANGS of youths will be banned from gathering in a Halesowen park targeted by metal thieves and vandals after police secured new powers.

Two slides, two swings, a climbing wall and chain bridge were hacked down at The Leasowes, in Halesowen, recently.

Residents have long complained about a large number of youngsters meeting there, dropping litter and

daubing graffiti on walls. Now police have been given powers that mean they can move on rowdy youngsters.

The order will allow officers to break up groups of youths who gather in specific areas and prevent them from returning.

Anyone believed to be under the age of 16 and not under the control of a parent or responsible adult between 9pm and 6am can also be taken back to their home. The dispersal order will stay in place for six months. It covers

Leasowes Lane, Leasowes Club House, Manor Lane, Kent Road, Highlands Rise, Western Avenue and Shenstone Avenue.

Sgt Wendy Tyler, from Halesowen Police Station, said: "It will help us to tackle the problem head-on and help to make people in Halesowen feel safer."

Marianne Diller, chairman of the Friends of The Leasowes, said: "We welcome this and I hope it will improve the behaviour of youngsters who use the park."

## Harry Shaw

### Isle of Wight - Carlton Hotel

The beautiful Isle of Wight is renowned for its glorious beaches, spectacular coastlines and gently rolling Downs. The Carlton Hotel is set close to the sea front at Sandown.

During your stay we have included a visit to the traditional village of Godshill.

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#### Included excursions:

- Coastal tour calling at Weymouth and Lulworth Cove
- Visit to Dorset town of Swanage and brief visit to Poole harbour to marvel at the many boats

#### Optional excursion:

- Guernsey on Condor Ferries - £25 pp

5 Days • 4 Nights: 10 October from £189.95

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#### Optional excursions:

- Lake Garda circular tour taking in the capital of Lake Garda - Garda and a stop at Malcesine - £9.95pp
- Verona - £9.95pp • Venice - £29.95pp

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#### Included excursions:

- Ullapool with its fishermans cottages and craft shops. In the afternoon we call at Inverness
- Tour taking us via Spean Bridge to Loch Ness where we have included a boat trip
- Visit to coastal towns of Nairn and Elgin

5 Days • 4 Nights: 24 October from £199.95

### Torquay - Rainbow International Hotel

Enjoy a bargain break on the English Riviera - at Torquay with its superb coastline, attractive harbour and wide selection of restaurants, cafes and bars. The Rainbow International Hotel is set within a short stroll of the town, beaches and sparkling sea. Features include a restaurant and indoor pool.

#### Included excursions:

- Visit to the narrow villages along the fringe of Dartmoor to beautiful South Hams and Salcombe
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#### Optional excursions:

- Nice and Menton - £15 per person
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Banner bearers prepare for the parade



Members of the Air Training Corps get ready to march



Banners in the procession at Dudley

# Tribute to heroes of the Battle of Britain



Air cadets on parade in Dudley in tribute to heroes of the Battle of Britain

A TRIBUTE to the heroes of the Battle of Britain has been held in Dudley.

The day's commemorative events included a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church, known as Top Church.

Cadets from the borough's Air Training Corps led a procession through the town centre and the Mayor and a Wing Commander from RAF Cosford received a salute when those on parade passed the council house.

The parade ended at the Cenotaph in Ednam Road, where a short service took place including a period of silence and the laying of

wreaths. Sunday's event was organised by Dudley Council to remember those involved in the Second World War battle of the skies. This year marks the 71st anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Among those who took part in the occasion were ATC cadets from 347 Dudley, 2488 Kingswinford, 2156 Brierley Hill and 223 Halesowen.

Veterans from the Netherton branch of the Royal British Legion and the Dudley RAF Association were also there.

Netherton RBL branch member Ernest Robinson, aged 87, said: "I think it is very important to remember the battle."



RBL members Ken Pearson, 71, Brian Thomas, 59 and Ernest Robinson, 87

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thechronicle

## Teenagers nursing an ambition

TWO STOURBRIDGE youngsters who underwent hospital operations have been finding out what life is like in the health service from the other side.

Thirteen-year-old Megan Luckins, from Amblecote and Mariam Ajajib, aged 14, from Stourbridge have both recently had appendicitis operations.

They underwent the surgery at Russells Hall Hospital.

The pair told the Wishing Well charity they both wanted to see what life was like as a nurse for the day and the organisation helped them to realise their dream.

The pair visited the hospital's maternity unit then watched as Wishing Well organiser Steve Ford had his foot plastered and also saw an ultrasound and blood test carried out.



Megan Luckins, clinical support worker Karen O'Brien, Wishing Well organiser Steve Ford and Mariam Ajajib

## Gunfire reports probed

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched following reports of a gun being fired outside a house in Dudley.

Police were called to The Broadway at around 1.23am last Friday and an area around the property was sealed off.

Officers said no-one had been hurt but some minor damage had been caused to the property.

No arrests have been made in connection with the incident.

Police are asking for anyone with information to come forward and call police on 0345 113 5000.

Police spokesman Sarah Astbury said: "We are investigating an incident where a firearm was discharged outside a house in Dudley."

## Girl, four, burned in matches play

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl suffered burns to her body after playing with matches.

Fire crews were called to Waverley Street, Dudley, last Thursday.

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Fire crews were called to Waverley Street, Dudley, last Thursday.

# National retailer is on the way to town centre unit

THE ARRIVAL of a mystery national retailer will help reverse Dudley's fortunes after it emerged as having more shops empty than any other town centre, it is claimed.

Dudley has more shops standing empty than any other town centre of a similar size in the country.

## Guard is robbed by knife raiders

ROBBERS with a knife attacked a security guard as he delivered cash to a Gornal post office, taking a cash box.

The gang struck at Gornal Wood Post Office, in Louise Street, shortly after 9am last Thursday as the guard was making his second stop at the store.

He was approached by two men who attacked him in the doorway of the post office and grabbed the cash box. Both then fled on two waiting off-road bikes ridden by two other men. They sped off towards Himley.

The guard suffered minor injuries and was treated at hospital. The post office was packed with customers who helped the guard to his feet.

Police said one of the bikes was recovered and confirmed the knife had not been used in the attack.

The robbers are believed to be four white men. All had their faces covered.

Sub-postmaster Talvin Hayre said it had been a "tremendous shock".

"We have recently been out to public consultation in relation to a £6m makeover of the market area."

Witnesses should call police on 0345 113 5000.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Les Jones acknowledged the findings by the Local Data Company. But he says figures have been skewed by the closure of Spencers Market in July.

"Dudley's appearance in this list can largely be attributed to Spencers Market which closed earlier this year to make way for a new national retailer which will occupy the large 12,000sq ft premises before Christmas," he said.

"This new retailer, in addition to another new retailer which has recently leased an 8,000sq ft unit in the town, will significantly improve vacancy rates."

## Positive

"This said, we are by no means complacent and we continue to work to reduce current vacancy rates, which we have recorded at 22 per cent as there are 82 vacant units out of a total of 379 units in the town."

It is unclear at this stage which high street name will be taking up the Spencers Market but an announcement is expected shortly.

Councillor Jones said the recent arrivals of Asda and Iceland into the town had been positive. "We are always looking at ways of attracting retailers into our town centres and we are proud of significant £200million regeneration plans," he added.

"We have recently been out to public consultation in relation to a £6m makeover of the market area."

## Wacky Wagner calls in



Wagner Carrilho joins Conner Williams and Dillon Nixon, with PCSO Richard Lockley, firefighter Mark Harrison and PCSO Jeff Everett

FORMER X Factor star Wagner took time out from his hectic schedule to visit a fun day organised by police just yards from his Black Country home.

He made an appearance at the event at Brockmoor Community Centre in Pensnett, down the road from the bungalow where he still lives in Blewitt Street.

The Brazilian singer signed autographs and posed for photos with fans of all ages. More than 200 people flocked to the four-hour event.

# Metal thieves leave £54,000 bill

METAL thieves have plundered 120 drain covers in six months from streets in Dudley leaving taxpayers with a bill of up to £54,000.

Dudley Council said most of the thefts had happened in recent weeks as raiders try to cash in on the rising price of scrap metal.

It can cost up to £450 to repair and replace a cast iron cover depending on

how much damage is caused by the thieves.

The authority is worried that the open holes left behind by thieves could pose a safety risk.

It is now looking at replacing the stolen metal grids with ones made of alternative materials to deter raiders from taking them to sell for scrap.

The move follows a spate of thefts in Wolverhampton where 30 covers were taken in two weeks.

Cabinet member for transport, Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "Like many other local authorities we have experienced an increase in the number of reported thefts of drain covers."

Anyone finding a drain without a cover is asked to call 0300 555 2345.



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Monday	6.30-7.30pm <b>Holy Trinity Church Hall</b> , Wordsley DY8 5RU	Wednesday	6.15-7.15pm <b>The Grand Hall</b> , Dudley College, The Broadway, Dudley - New Large Venue
Monday	6.00-7.00pm and 7.15-8.15pm <b>Hilton Hall Community Centre</b> , Lanesfield WV4 6DR	Thursdays	6.30-7.30pm and 7.45-8.45pm <b>The Kingswinford School</b> , Water Street, Kingswinford DY6 7AD
Tuesday	1.30-2.30pm <b>Holy Trinity Church Hall</b> , Wordsley DY8 5RU	Thursday	6.30-7.30pm <b>Darkhouse Baptist Church</b> , Darkhouse Lane, Coseley WV14 8XH
Tuesday	7.15pm <b>High Arcal School</b> , Sedgley DY3 1BP	Friday	6.30-7.30pm <b>Holy Trinity Church Hall</b> , Wordsley DY8 5RU
Tuesday	6.30-7.30pm <b>Wollescote Community Centre</b>	Friday	6.30-7.30pm <b>The Kingswinford School</b> , Water Street, Kingswinford DY6 7AD
Tuesday	7.45 - 8.45pm <b>Wollescote Community Centre</b> , Wassel Road, Wollescote DY9 9BY	Saturday	9.30-10.30am <b>High Arcal School</b> , Sedgley DY3 1BP
Tuesday	6.30-7.30pm <b>Woodside Community Centre</b> , Highgate Road, Dudley DY2 0SN		
Wednesday	Change of day from 13th September 6.30-7.30pm and 7.45-8.45pm <b>High Arcal School</b> , Sedgley DY3 1BP		

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# Hope for homes as tower blocks fall

IT WAS once the site of two eyesore tower blocks that were repeatedly plagued by vandalism.

But now a few piles of rubble on the ground are the only clues that the 13-storey Bolton Court towers at Ocker Hill in Tipton ever existed.

As the picture shows, demolition of the 1960s buildings is now more or less complete. Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell's cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods, said: "It's been an eyesore and an area of antisocial behaviour for a number of years, so it's good to see the work get to this stage."

"All the rubble is being crushed on site and there was a mountain of rocks when they first started."

"But now there are only a few remaining. The demolition is within days of being finished."

"Now we're keen to build something that will benefit the area as soon as possible," he added. "We don't want to leave the site derelict. We're in the process of trying to find a partner who can build a series of low-rise homes."

"Hopefully we can start building those in the next few months."

Sandwell Council began pulling down the towers, which are close to the border with Moxley, in July.

Work had been due to begin next year but the schedule was hauled forward after the former homes were repeatedly hit by vandals. It was feared the flats may pose a health and safety risk.

Contractors Coleman and Company have carried out the work.

The blocks were recommended for demolition in April last year. Residents who were forced out were given compensation.

## Fitness help for soldiers

A STOURBRIDGE firm has donated a special fitness machine to aid the recovery of soldiers wounded in Afghanistan.

Versaclimber UK, based at Lye Business Centre, handed the £4,000 Sportsmedical model to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

Working with the machine helps physiotherapy patients regain their muscle strength. Among its users will be British military personnel injured on deployment in the middle east.

Emma Batchelor, clinical specialist in physiotherapy at the hospital, said: "We're really grateful."

"It's ideal for our patients because it provides a low impact workout, ensuring exercising is comfortable and the amount of stress placed on the ankles, knees, hips and spine is limited."

"We have used this machine with military patients who have lower limb injuries because it enables us to isolate and exercise the upper parts of the body."



Anne Vickerstaff tries her hand with the Sportsmedical physiotherapy machine while Emma Batchelor and Neil Kelford, managing director of Versaclimber UK, at Stourbridge look on

The demolition is almost complete

A photograph showing the demolition site with piles of rubble and a yellow excavator.

Demolition is almost complete

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\*the "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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**WAREHOUSE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Public to get say on camps

A PUBLIC consultation on plans to create up to 15 new sites for travellers in Wyre Forest will take place, it was announced.

Wyre Forest District Council is looking at making 145 pitches available in a bid to stop travellers turning up unannounced on land without prior permission.

Sites including Lea Castle in Cookley and Kidderminster's former Sion Hill Middle School have been unveiled as possible locations for permanent or temporary travellers' pitches.

The proposals were due to be discussed at a meeting of the council's overview and scrutiny committee and cabinet last Thursday.

But the debate was called off after more than 80 people turned up to watch.

The council said due to health and safety reasons, it had to ask the protesters to leave and eventually called in the police for back-up.

A special meeting has now been organised for September 19 which will be held at Stourport Civic Hall at 6pm.

# Hundreds in the region gained entry to Oxford

ALMOST 550 students from the West Midlands and Staffordshire have been accepted into the University of Oxford over the last five years new figures show.

Numbers released by the prestigious educational institution under the Freedom of Information Act show 323 pupils from B postcode area, which covers Sandwell and Birmingham have accepted offers between 2006 and 2010.

The statistics also show that 73 youngsters living in the DY postcode, which covers Dudley and Kidderminster, got in to the prestigious university.

A total of 67 living in the ST postcode of Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent, 41 in the WS postcode for Walsall as well as Cannock and 44 in the WV postcode for Wolverhampton all gained entry.

The numbers living in each area accepted will differ depending on the number of students who were eligible to apply and how many are gaining top A grades in their A-levels.

Spokeswoman for Oxford University, Dr Julia Paolitto, said the university was doing all it could to encourage pupils from the region to apply to the institution.

## Potential

"Oxford University strongly encourages anyone with the ability and potential to succeed to apply – and works hard with teachers, schools and students to ensure talented students across the entire country have the information and support to make as strong an application as possible.

"Oxford has a series of very successful regional teachers' conferences which aim to equip teachers with the best possible advice for their students on applying to Oxford, and which work at breaking down misconceptions that might deter students from applying," she added.

College chiefs in the region also say they have a number of resources on hand to encourage students wanting to go to university.

Robert Chapman, of Dudley College, commented: "The need to obtain useful advice and guidance is much in demand by our students."

## Down to business at the Scarab

A SOCIAL enterprise in Stourbridge hopes to offer an innovative approach to business networking with a new scheme.

Hub Stourbridge is inviting self-employed people and owners of small businesses to an event at the Egyptian-themed Cafe Scarab, on Lower High Street, on Monday (September 19). The day a chance to share ideas and network.

Cafe Scarab will open at 9.30am and a short film will be screened at midday to highlight the benefit of sharing work spaces.

Organisers hope the event will yield a permanent home for the group. Visits to a potential site have been arranged during Monday afternoon.

Hub founder Odilia Mabrouk said: "Similar projects are popping up all over the place from Birmingham to Dubai but we are excited that ours will be a Black Country first."

Spaces for the free event can be booked online at [www.hubstourbridge.com](http://www.hubstourbridge.com) or by calling 07530 310553.



Jon Hazlewood and Odilia Mabrouk promote the new business network hub at the Scarab Cafe in Stourbridge

## Carpets group stepping into the vinyl flooring market

KIDDERMINSTER carpets group Victoria has moved into the luxury vinyl flooring market with the £400,000 takeover of a Devon company.

C&H Distribution, based in Willand near Exeter, supplies vinyl tiles to the contract market in the UK. If it hits sales targets Victoria will pay an additional £50,000 for the business.

Victoria says it expects the takeover to boost its earnings next year.

Group managing director Alan Bullock said: "C&H is an important step towards achieving our stated objective of becoming the leading high-quality flooring supplier in both Australasia and the UK."

## Marina protest goes to Europe

A CAMPAIGNER who fought in vain to stop plans for a huge new marina on green belt land in South Staffordshire is taking his battle to the European Parliament.

Councillor Gordon Fanthom will deliver a dossier of petition signatures and reports to West Midlands MEP Mike Nattrass which he hopes will scupper plans to build a 199-boat marina in Swindon.

Councillor Fanthom, a member of Swindon Parish Council and Swindon Marina Action Group, will then ask for the dossier to be presented to European Parliament in Brussels.

The proposal was approved by planning bosses in December but Councillor Fanthom is protesting on environmental grounds relating to an alleged flooding risk.

Marina applicants Timothy and Joanna Munday have dismissed the claims as containing "not a grain of truth".

The development would see fields flooded to create the attraction. A marina would be created with an office, farm shop, tea rooms, gift shop, viewing gallery area and a car park.

## Crash rider has broken fingers

A MOTORCYCLIST was left with broken fingers after a crash involving a car in Dudley.

Firefighters and paramedics were called to The Broadway shortly before 7pm on Saturday.



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Hard at work when the laboratory was in the first school building



Ivy Freemantle, sitting second from right, in the school's hockey team in 1931



Marion Brettle pictured with fellow ex-pupils, her mother Marjorie Davies and Ivy Freemantle

## School story related in a new book

A PRESTIGIOUS Stourbridge girls' school has been put in the spotlight thanks to a book written by a former pupil who is anxious to preserve the school's heritage.

Marion Brettle was concerned the history and achievements of Stourbridge Girls' High had never been documented.

She has now written a book, called *A History of Girls Gone By*, which details the story of the school from its very beginning in 1905 to its closure in 1976.

The school was in Junction Road, Stourbridge, from 1928, and later became the Redhill School.

Members of the High School's Old Girls' Association have shared their memories and pictures for the volume, which will be published on September 21.

Mrs Brettle, formerly of Stourbridge but who now lives in Much Wenlock, attended the school between 1953 and 1960.

Her older sisters Pat and Ann also attended the school as did her mother Marjorie Davies, who is now 96.

Marjorie has her own memories of the school, including meeting her lifelong friend Ivy Freemantle.

### Memories

She said: "It was very different back then. When the teachers told you to do something you had to do it.

"I have very happy memories of my time there."

Mother-of-one Mrs Brettell, an examiner for Trinity College London, said: "I wanted to write the book because I felt there was a real risk of the school becoming a lost chapter in the town's history."

"Many only know this site as the Redhill School," she added.

"They do not know about the heritage and I wanted to do something about that."



Anyone for tennis back in the 1950s?



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# Here come the girls!



'Gurl' just wants to have fun – Californian pop star Katy Perry brings her sunshine sound to perk up an English autumn at Birmingham NIA on October 15

THREE of the pop world's biggest female stars will be coming to the West Midlands this autumn.

First up, fresh from her star turn at the summer's V Festival, is Barbados-born R&B diva Rihanna, who will not be needing her Umbrella when she plays Birmingham LG Arena on Saturday, October 15. And the singer, who also had massive hits with Only Girl (In The World) and Disturbia, will be returning again and again to the city, with another concert at the LG on November 18 and then at the National Indoor Arena (NIA) on November 29. Special guest on her Loud Tour will be Ibiza DJ and dance hit-maker Calvin Harris.

That California 'Gurl' Katy Perry will ensure a Firework show to remember at Birmingham NIA on Wednesday, October 26, as part of the second leg of her sold out California Dreams Tour. Expect lots of pink cotton candy. Her support will be New York-based Danish singer-songwriter Oh Land.

## Glee

Perhaps the biggest of the three concerts, if only because at one time it seemed so unlikely, is the return to the live arena of pop superstar Britney Spears.

Expect all 21 of her smash hits and a couple of surprises as the blonde bombshell gets back in The Zone at the LG Arena on Sunday, October 30, in one of only three UK shows as part of her world tour to mark the release of seventh album Femme Fatale. It's her first since 2008's platinum set The Circus.

One of a handful of artists who inspired her own Glee episode, Britney promises a lavish extravaganza for the fans and, as an extra treat the comeback queen will be bringing along heart-throb Joe Jonas as her support act.

For further information see the [www.necgroup.co.uk/whatson](http://www.necgroup.co.uk/whatson) website.



Britney's back and playing the LG on October 30. Below, Rihanna visits Birmingham three times in October and November



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Newquay & St Ives LOWENVA HOTEL	MON 26 SEP	£169.95	<b>£139.95</b>
Pontins Prestatyn	MON 26 SEP	£139.95	<b>£99.95</b>
Eastbourne HILTON ROYAL PARADE HOTEL	FRI 30 SEP	£129.95	<b>£99.95</b>
Billy Elliot & London	SAT 1 OCT	£129.95	<b>£99.95</b>
Mystery Pricebuster	SAT 1 OCT	£45	<b>£39.95</b>
Babbacombe & Eden NORCLIFFE HOTEL	MON 3 OCT	£179.95	<b>£159.95</b>
Oban Scottish House Party	MON 3 OCT	£229.95	<b>£179.95</b>

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# Return of the Mac

ECHO and the Bunnymen, one of the British rock scene's most influential bands, have a prestigious gig at Birmingham's Symphony Hall performing their classic Ocean Rain album in its entirety.

Fronted by Ian McCulloch and formed in Liverpool in 1978, the group provided a cool alternative to the punk scene with their psychedelic rock inspired by The Doors, The Velvet Underground and David Bowie.

## Hits

They had several hits during the 1980s, including The Cutter and Lips Like Sugar, and inspired several other groups, including Coldplay.

The band's 1984 album Ocean Rain is considered by many fans and critics to be their masterpiece, including the songs Silver, Seven Seas and The Killing Moon. The Bunnymen will be joined by a string section to perform it at Birmingham on Sunday, September 25.

For more information see the website [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)



Ian McCulloch, frontman of Liverpool's Echo and the Bunnymen

## What's on at the theatres

MUSICAL All The Fun Of The Fair, featuring the songs of David Essex and the man himself, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from tomorrow (Friday) and continues over the weekend. So get ready to Rock On.

Rhinestone Mondays, the new line-dancing play with country music, reunites former members of pop group Steps, Faye Tozer and Ian H Watkins at Wolverhampton Grand nightly to Saturday.

The show also stars ex-EastEnders and TV karaoke star Shaun Williamson and former New Seeker Lyn Paul, who last appeared at the Grand starring in Blood Brothers.

Next up at the Grand is Buddy Vs The Killer, from Thursday to Saturday (Sep 22-24), which stars Billy Geraghty as both Texan pop

star Buddy Holly and wildman of rock 'n' roll Jerry Lee Lewis.

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical Evita continues at Birmingham Hippodrome to September 24. It will be followed by Birmingham Royal Ballet's sumptuous staging of Beauty and the Beast from September 28 to October 2.

## Radio

Birmingham Rep on the road present both Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest and Tom Stoppard's homage to Wild, Travesties, at The Old Rep in the city to September 22.

The Fitzrovia Radio Hour, a humorous tribute to the BBC radio dramas of the 1940s, should be absolutely spiffing at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday night.

## Greenline

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Sunday 25th September  
MALVERN SHOW  
Includes Admission

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Sunday 25th September  
MYSTERY EVENING TOUR

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Saturday 1st October  
BLACKPOOL 8.00 pm return

\$16.00 \$15.00 \$12.00

WELLSBOURNE MARKET & STRATFORD

\$18.00 \$16.00 \$14.00

Monday 10th October  
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Wednesday 12th October  
CARVERY AT The March Hare then to WEBBS of WYCHBOLD

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Saturday 15th October  
BLACKPOOL 8.00 pm return

\$18.00 \$16.00 \$12.00

Monday 17th October  
INGLEWOOD TORQUAY

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Includes excursions, entertainment, half board with all the trimmings. Close to sea front. Single supp. \$4

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Monday 14th November  
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Sunday 11th December  
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# Sunday TV

## Choice



### BIG BROTHER

Channel 5, 9pm  
Some people were a bit sceptical when it was announced that Big Brother was coming back less than a year after we thought Channel 4 had killed it off for good. Would Channel 5 have been better off leaving it for a couple of years and giving us time to get nostalgic about those summer spent watching a group of attention-seeking strangers trying to share a house before they recruited the format? However, we needn't have worried – even without Davina McCall bellowing over the eviction night crowds, Big Brother is still as strangely addictive as ever. Here, Marcus Bentley, the unmissable voice of BB, narrates the highlights from the past day.

9.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Match of the Day. (F) 9.45 The Andrew Marr Show. 9.45 The Great North Run 2011. Live coverage of the half marathon. 10.00 The Politics Show. Weather for the 'Week Ahead'. 10.00 Escape to the Country. (F) 10.00 A Question of Sport. (F) 10.15 Planet Dinosaur. (F) 10.30 Lifeline. 10.30 Songs of Praise: 50 Years Ago. 10.30 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

9.00 **Home's Elmoids**. BBC1. Endangered animals that evolved on islands. Last in the series.

9.00 **Coverage**. Matt Baker and Elle Harrison visit Look East in Argyl and Bute.

9.00 **Autumn Roundabout**. New series. Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Manchester Town Hall.

9.00 **Seven**. New series. An assassin kills a retired spy and former colleague of Harry.

9.00 **BBC News: Regional News: West Midlands**.

9.00 **By Popular Demand**.

9.00 **Doctor Who**.

9.00 **Top Gear**. Jeremy Clarkson to continue the show. (F)

9.00 **A Small Adventure**. BBC1. New series. David Baddiel. New series. The broadcaster explores the changing social and economic climate of the continent.

9.00 **World's Best**.

9.00 **Downyers Roads**. Ben Fogle and Hugh Dennis drive from the Andes to the Amazon river.

9.00 **Match of the Day 2**.

Including highlights of Manchester United v Chelsea.

9.00 **Inside the Wool**. With guests Miles Jupp and Carl Donnelly. (F)

9.00 **FILE: Addiction**. (1997) Two heroin addicts try to quit after a friend suffers a near fatal overdose, but struggle with bureaucracy and a famous drug dealer. Comedy drama, with Tupeo Shukur and Tim Roth and Winona Ryder.

9.00 **Sign Zone: Dragons' Den**.

(F) 9.00 **Holy City**. (F) 9.00 **Antique Road Trip** (F) 9.00 **BBC News**

9.00 **BBC News: Local News**.

9.00 **Cbeebies**. 9.00 CBBC. 9.00 Something for the Weekend. 9.45 The Great British Bake Off. (F) 9.45 MotoGP. 9.45 Canoeing. 9.45 Live Show: Jumping. 9.45 Rugby League. 9.45 The Great North Run 2011.

9.00 **Dragons' Den**. Ideas include a hands-free ping-pong product. (F)

9.00 **Good Night and Good Luck**. Stop Snoring or your money back! [www.goodnightsnoring.com](http://www.goodnightsnoring.com)

9.00 **Top Gear**. Jeremy Clarkson to continue the show. (F)

9.00 **A Small Adventure**. BBC1. New series. David Baddiel. New series.

9.00 **Match of the Day**.

Including highlights of Manchester United v Chelsea.

9.00 **Inside the Wool**. With guests Miles Jupp and Carl Donnelly. (F)

9.00 **FILE: Addiction**. (1997) Two heroin addicts try to quit after a friend suffers a near fatal overdose, but struggle with bureaucracy and a famous drug dealer. Comedy drama, with Tupeo Shukur and Tim Roth and Winona Ryder.

9.00 **Sign Zone: Dragons' Den**.

(F) 9.00 **Holy City**. (F) 9.00 **Antique Road Trip** (F) 9.00 **BBC News**

## BBC1

## BBC2

## ITV1

## Channel 4

## Channel 5

## Digital



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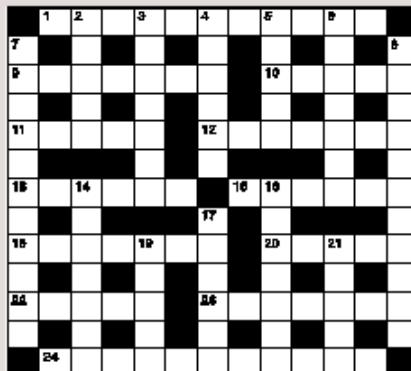


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### Crossword



**Across**  
1 Happening to be photographing the site (6,5)  
2 What faces the houses of the French capital? (7,2,5)  
10 A note needs transposing by the right way (5)  
11 He's a cleric as a rule (5)  
12 This is assumed to make a sound receiver look more attractive (3-4)  
13 What the cat did, having run round the track? (6)  
15 Having been tapped, it's tapped and then tipped! (6)  
18 Take pains to show calamity (7)  
20 They're instrumental as water-carriers (6)  
22 Told about one showing remorse (6)  
23 Amongst to break a kind of knot (7)  
24 Daring to take a risk with certain people (11)

**Down**  
2 What increases your bank balance once more (5)  
3 Deeply emotional in past, present or future (7)  
4 Stone coming from the north in great variety (6)  
5 One's recent piece of rare talent brought up (5)  
6 To do this, one may need to give a man time (7)  
7 So dire parts will reveal those who take financial risks (11)  
8 Guiding the pilgrim? (11)  
14 The result of taking a one-sided picture (7)  
18 See 9 Across  
17 Firm amalgamation (6)  
19 Function has to make progress in the part (5)  
21 Being precise about a Trojan king (6)

**Last Week's Solutions:**  
Across 1 Battering 5 Rail 8 Stay 10 Dinkwell 11 Wary 120 stars; 13 Change of heart; 18 Distress; 19 Roll 200 seconds; 21 Head; 22 Loss; 23 Rosetta; 24x 2 Words; 25 Lighted; 26 Condition; 27 Biting; 3 Dazzle; 2 Words; 13 Good; 14 Maxine; 15 Gaudy; 16 Evidence; 17 Rehearsal

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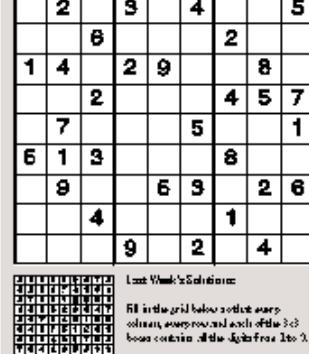
**Word Square**  
Using the central letter and at least three others, how many words can you find? Plurals, proper nouns and hyphenated words are not allowed, and there is at least one 9-letter word.

10 words = 0% 20 words = Great  
15 words = 0% 25 words = Excellent

[Last Week's Solutions](#)  
9-letter word: **Dragon**

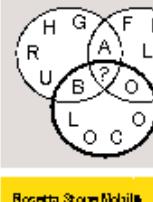
### RosettaStone

### Sudoku



[Last Week's Solutions](#)

Fill in the grid below with a 9x9 square, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



[Last Week's Solutions](#)

The letter represented by the question mark is G. Colours, British, Hancock, all just random.



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# TOWN & COUNTRY

## PROPERTY SERVICES

### GRANGE LANE WOLLCOTE



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£895PCM

### DERRY CLOSE HARBOURNE



A Spacious three bedroom semi-detached property within metres of the University and Queen Elizabeth Hospital with accommodation to comprise of: Hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, garden, garage and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£695PCM

### WHITTINGHAM ROAD HALESOWEN



A well presented three bedroom semi-detached property situated in a popular residential area. The property further benefits from having front and rear gardens, off road parking, garage, gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£650PCM

### WITTON STREET STOURBRIDGE



A beautifully presented three bedroom detached property situated in a sought after residential location close to Mary Stevens Park. Accommodation comprises of Porch, Hall, sitting room, refitted kitchen, utility room, dining room, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, gas central heating and enclosed rear garden. Viewing highly recommended. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No

£650

### TREFOIL GARDENS AMBLECOTE



A beautifully presented two bedroom ground floor Apartment situated in a popular modern development close to all amenities of Stourbridge town centre with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, feature balcony, superb modern kitchen, master bedroom with ensuite, further bedroom and family bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£575PCM

### REGENT ROAD TIVIDALE



A deceptively spacious three bedroom semi-detached property located near to local amenities. The accommodation comprises: Porch, reception hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, verandah, three bedrooms and bathrooms. The property further benefits from having off road parking, front and rear gardens, gas central heating and double glazing. FURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£425PCM

### ST GILES ROW LOWER HIGH STREET



A well presented three bedroom mews style property situated close to all the amenities of Stourbridge town centre. The property further benefits from having double glazing, secure off road parking and garden to the rear. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£675.00 PCM

### HERONDAL ROAD WOLLASTON



A beautifully presented two bedroom detached bungalow situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, secure off road parking and garden to the rear. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£650PCM

### RASTRICK CLOSE BRIDGNORTH



A superb brand new three bedroom mid terrace property in a new and popular development with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, secure off road parking and enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£650.00PCM

### DERWENT CLOSE PENSNETT



A good three bedroom semi-detached property in a much sought after location. Close to all the amenities of Stourbridge town centre and rail networks. The accommodation comprises of: Sitting room, Dining room, fitted kitchen with hob and oven, double garage, double glazing and enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: Yes CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£595.00 PCM

### LOVE LANE OLDSWINFORD



An extremely well presented two bedroom period terrace property in a much sought after location. Close to all the amenities of Stourbridge town centre and rail networks. The accommodation comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, fully fitted kitchen, Lounge, 2 bedrooms - master with en-suite and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having off road parking, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£595

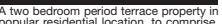
### COLUMBUS AVENUE MERRY HILL



A two bedroom apartment situated on the ever popular Merry Hill Centre complex and close to all the amenities of Stourbridge town centre. The property further benefits from having double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£575PCM

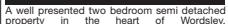
### ALBERT STREET LYE



A two bedroom period terrace property in a popular residential location, to comprise, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, hallway, lobby and bathroom. The property also benefits from a rear garden. Currently being re-furnished. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£550PCM

### HIGH STREET WORDSLEY



A well presented two bedroom semi-detached property in the heart of Wordsley. Accommodation comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and conservatory. The property also benefits from having gas central heating, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. Viewing highly recommended. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£530.00 PCM

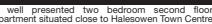
### HAWKESLEY ROAD DUDLEY



A refurbished two bedroom semi-detached property situated in a popular residential location close to Russell Hall Hospital with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and an enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£525PCM

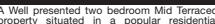
### STOURBRIDGE ROAD HALESOWEN



A well presented two bedroom second floor Apartment situated close to Halesowen town centre with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, double storage cupboard off, fitted kitchen, double bedroom with en-suite shower, room and further bedroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing and electric storage heating. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£525pcm

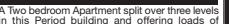
### GEORGE ROAD HALESOWEN



A well presented two bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having off road parking and an enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£525PCM

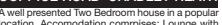
### THE OLD COURT HOUSE DUDLEY



A two bedroom Apartment split over three levels in this Period building and offering loads of character with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and one allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£500PCM

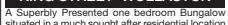
### COPPICE ROAD CRADLEY HEATH



A well presented two bedroom house in a popular location. Accommodation comprises: Lounge with gas fire, two double bedrooms, Kitchen with wall and base units and additional storage room. Bedroom Two has fitted wardrobes and Bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from having double glazing, gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£495PCM

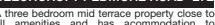
### KING STREET WOLLASTON



A superbly Presented one bedroom Bungalow situated in a much sought after residential location and benefits from having double glazing. The accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, Kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and conservatory. The property further benefits from having double glazing, gas central heating and double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£495PCM

### BEECHCROFT PEDMORE ROAD LYE



A three bedroom mid terrace property close to all amenities and has accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, cellar and three bedrooms. The property also has double glazing, central heating and a small rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: Yes

£495PCM

### HOLLY ROAD ROWLEY REGIS



A Two Bedroom End Terrace Victorian property in a popular location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas fired central heating, double glazing and a rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£475PCM

### SCOTT STREET GREAT BRIDGE

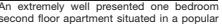


A Second Floor One bedroom Apartment in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, Kitchen with oven and hob, Bedroom and Bathroom with over bath shower. The Property further benefits from Double Glazing, Electric Heating and Allocated Parking. Unfurnished

CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No

£450 pcm

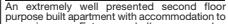
### ENVILLE STREET STOURBRIDGE



An extremely well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from gas central heating and electric heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£395PCM

### LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE



An extremely well presented second floor purpose built apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen/lounge, double bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£395 PCM

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### DOVE DRIVE AMBLECOTE



An extremely well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and electric heating and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

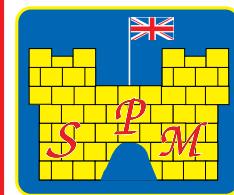
£375.00

### NORTHGATE CRADLEY HEATH



An extremely well presented three bedroom semi-detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing, secure off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED DSS: No CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No

£350PCM



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UPPER GORNA

NEW



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£525 ppcm

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

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HIGH STREET

FOR SALE £159,950

Semi residential property offering good size accommodation located in central Kingswinford. Comprises of Entrance Porch, Large Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Ground Floor WC, Lounge, Three Bedrooms and a Refitted Shower Room. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking for 2 cars, and a very well presented rear garden. Viewing of the property is highly recommended.

KINGSWINFOR

NEW



HIGH STREET

FOR SALE £119,950

Detached premises with planning permission for two bedroomed residential home. Unique opportunity for conversion, all plans available for viewing upon request.

TIPTON

NEW



ANCHOR DRIVE

£495 ppcm

Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

LOWER GORNA

NEW



HILLSIDE

£525 ppcm

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Unfurnished, Front &amp; Rear Gardens.

BRIERLEY HILL

NEW



FOXDALE DRIVE

£475 ppcm

Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front &amp; Rear Gardens, Allocated Parking

KINGSWINFOR

NEW



PENSNETT

NEW



SELDLEY

NEW



WORDSLEY

NEW



KINGSWINFOR

NEW



KINGSWINFOR

NEW



WORDSLEY

NEW



GREAT BRIDGE

NEW



KINGSWINFOR

NEW



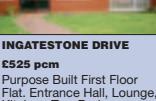
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WORDSLEY

NEW



EAGLE PLACE

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WORDSLEY

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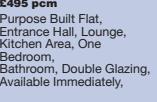
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CROWNOAKES DRIVE

£495 ppcm

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COTTAGE STREET

£550 ppcm

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PENSNETT

NEW



KINGSWINFOR

NEW



COLLEY GATE

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TIPTON

NEW



KINGSWINFOR

NEW



THE PORTWAY

£650 ppcm

Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front &amp; Rear Gardens, Double Garage, Parking.

WINDMILL HILL

£450 ppcm

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AVERN CLOSE

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# Final three homes at Waters Edge complex

LEADING housebuilder Barratt West Midlands now has just three remaining waterside apartments at the Severn View apartment complex at Waters Edge on Mart Lane, Stourport.

The development has experienced high demand for its apartments thanks to its beautiful waterside location at Stourport's canal basin and its wide appeal to investors, first time buyers and anyone looking to move to a smaller scenic property now that their children have moved home.

"Our apartments in Severn View at Waters Edge have been exceptionally popular," said Stephen Cleveley, senior sales manager for Barratt West Midlands.

"And it's easy to see why. Our apartments enjoy the beautiful scenery of the canal basin and Stourport has become one of Worcestershire's premier locations thanks to its excellent facilities and attractions.

## Spacious

"Residents in Severn View are just a short walk along the canal from the centre of Stourport with everything it has to offer, so our final three properties represent an excellent chance for buyers to secure a home at this popular development."

The final selection of apartments in Severn View includes the Mease-style two bedroom apartment, which is available for £139,950 and features two spacious double bedrooms including a master bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, as well as an airy open plan living and dining room, modern kitchen and separate bathroom.

"We're really looking forward to welcoming visitors to see the final homes in Severn View," said Mr Cleveley.

"We are anticipating especially high demand for these final homes, so



There has been high demand for the apartments in picturesque Stourport

Barratt West Midlands has been confirmed as meritting the maximum five star official rating from the Home Builders Federation (HBF) for the second year in a row.

The news was announced after more than 20,000 new home buyers across the country took part in this year's HBF customer satisfaction survey.

For added peace of mind, buyers can also benefit from Barratt's new five year guarantee on fixtures and fittings in their new home at the time of purchase.

Items covered at no extra cost to the buyer will include appliances such as washing machines and refrigerators, kitchen units, wardrobes, the central heating system, fires, doors, windows, drainage, the hot and cold plumbing system and even the driveway.

# Don't be sheepish when using wool in the home

COUNTING sheep might be worth a try to encourage sweet dreams, but featuring wool and sheepskin is a guaranteed way to ensure a smart home.

The fashionable flock are snuggling on sheepskin rugs, snapping up furniture and accessories boasting beautifully knitted upholstery, or simply picking up their knitting needles this autumn.

Wool's durable qualities have just been celebrated for the second year running by HRH The Prince of Wales, among others, who initiated the Wool Week campaign last year.

## Filter

From September 5-11, shops across the UK dedicated to wool-inspired windows and major stores including John Lewis, Heal's, House of Fraser and Conran supported the campaign.

"Trends we see on the catwalk don't just filter into our wardrobes, they also have a great impact on interior design," says John Bain, global design director for Brintons carpets.

"The natural springiness and resilience of wool makes it a perfect carpet choice for the family home, while providing insulation which will help reduce heat loss during winter."

Our nation's renewed passion for crafts, coupled with a desire to know the provenance of items, are also fuelling this trend for woolly wonders.

So indulge yourself in sheep chic and treat yourself to home items with a baa-code.

There's nothing like the tactile, sensual experience of snuggling up on sheepskin, which retains heat in winter but can be cool in summer.

House Couturier's Eco Wool accessories collection boasts some animal friendly, hand-made couture, using 100 per cent wool from old European sheep breeds.

The collection includes bed covers, £2,396, a delightful Raka footstool, £1,920, and cushions, £286 each.

The White Company's Luxury Sheep-



skin collection is also highly desirable, with its huge, squishy beanbags, £950, large rugs, £500, and cushions, £60.

But those who want to break away from the conventional could indulge in the imaginative work of designers who are seizing the chance to work with wool.

## Armchair

"Wool is definitely making a come-back in the design industry following a trend that rediscovered distinctive natural materials," said Gianluca Armento, brand director for Italian design company Cassina.

Designer Franco Albini has created the stunning limited edition Tre Pezzi Wool armchair, £4,000, using white Mongolian goat hair and the results are simply stunning.

Tesco is bang on style and price with a cable knit cushion, £10, from its F&F home range.

There's a flock of knitted treasures on offer that are perfect for warming chilly rooms.

Laura Ashley's selection is particularly impressive with its fashionable hand-made feel.

Their Asha basket weave throw, £100, and knitted cushions, from £38 each, are well worth splashing some cash on.

Marks & Spencer has beautiful sheepskin rugs, from £39.50, as well as sheepskin throws.

These include a loose knit throw, £45, and chunky knit buttoned cushion, going for £25.

Tesco is bang on style and price with a cable knit cushion, £10, from its F&F home range.





Peugeot has urged motorists to be safety conscious as the bell rings for the new school term

## Cap your speed near schools, says Peugeot

PEUGEOT is looking to cap speed now that the school summer holidays have come to an end.

The company is reminding motorists that by using a speed-limiter they can drive safely, enjoy better fuel economy and protect their licence.

At this time of year drivers should be extra vigilant, especially around schools at peak hours.

Peugeot is calling on its customers, or drivers of any vehicle equipped with speed limiters, to set them to 20mph when driving near schools or entering residential areas.

Speed limiters can be fitted to most cars.

The system, equipped as standard to most Peugeot

models, electronically prevents drivers from exceeding the speeds they set on the device.

Morgan Lecouper, director of marketing for Peugeot UK, said: "Excessive speed is widely regarded as the number one contributor of road accidents, and keeping a speed below 20mph makes total sense when driving in residential areas or near schools."

"However, maintaining 20 mph or lower in a modern car is taxing in itself, but in truth it needn't have to be due to speed limiters fitted to most new models.

"Once a desired speed is set, our system prevents the driver from exceeding that velocity."

# Formula One king Vettel designs his own vehicle

THE perfect high-performance Infiniti Crossover – designed by, and built for, Formula One World Champion Sebastian Vettel – was making its debut in concept form at the 64th International Motor Show in Frankfurt.

The Red Bull Racing driver and Infiniti Global Brand Ambassador was unveiling "his" car at the show.

The first-ever Vettel-badged road car, the FX Sebastian Vettel version is the lightest, fastest and most aerodynamic FX yet.

It reflects the world champion's desire for a speedy 300km/h Crossover that he can drive on his home country's derestricted Autobahn.

### Sporting

Based on the already fast and sporting V8-powered FX50S Premium, the FX Sebastian Vettel version features changes to engine, suspension and body.

There are also key aerodynamic enhancements implemented with input from Red Bull Racing.

The one-off model also gains an interior personalised to Vettel's taste, taking the brand hallmarks of exclusiveness and individuality to new levels.



The Infiniti Crossover was being unveiled in concept form at the International Motor Show in Frankfurt

## Chris Hartley Cars



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Chevrolet's Volt was first through the door at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders exhibition

## Chevrolet finds a spark at the show with Volt

THE revolutionary Chevrolet Volt has been welcomed as the first vehicle to appear in the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' (SMMT) showroom-style exhibition area at its new premises in the heart of Westminster.

The space provides an opportunity to highlight the breadth and scale of the modern UK automotive industry to visitors and passers-by in a prime, central London location.

The Volt was driven onto its new display stand in electric-only mode and even managed to avoid London's Congestion Charge en route thanks to its innovative electric drivetrain, E-REV (Extended-Range Electric Vehicle), which powers the car's wheels directly.

### Battery

The petrol engine generates power for the battery, giving the car a maximum range of 60 miles in full electric mode.

The Chevrolet Volt has already won several awards in the USA, where the vehicle was crowned North American Car of

the Year, as well as winning recognition from titles such as Motor Trend and Automobile Magazine.

The Volt goes on sale in the UK in March 2012, and is eligible for the full £5,000 from the government's plug-in car grant.

Customers interested in finding out more about the Chevrolet Volt can visit the dedicated Volt customer site at [www.voltchevrolet.co.uk](http://www.voltchevrolet.co.uk).

### Parent

The Chevrolet brand celebrates its centenary this year, and is the world's fourth largest car brand.

Its parent company, General Motors, announced the Chevrolet brand would be coming to Europe at the 2004 Paris Motor Show, and launched the brand in all major European markets, including the UK, in 2005.

In that time, Chevrolet has grown to achieve sales of over 500,000 units across Europe, and a pan-European market share of more than one per cent.

## Land Rover now the UK's favourite four-wheel drive



Land Rover won more than half of the vote in a national poll

WHO MAKES the best 4x4s? That'll be Land Rover, which blitzed its rivals in a poll of 40,000 people to find the UK's favourite 4x4 maker.

Not for the first time, Land Rover has blown its off-roader rivals into the weeds. The famous British marque claimed an astonishing 54 per cent of the vote in a MSN Cars poll.

Just under 40,000 people provided their answer to the question: "Which firm makes the best '4x4' type cars?" when it was posed on the MSN Cars website last month.

Respondents were invited to choose their favourite from a list of 12 leading 4x4 manufacturers which included Jeep, Mitsubishi and Subaru as well as premium marques such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche.

Second-placed Toyota polled nine per cent of the vote, so Land Rover's 54 per cent was the definition of an emphatic victory. Audi arrived in third place with eight per cent.

The MSN Cars poll clearly shows the UK public hold a special place in their hearts for Land Rover and its products. The first vehicle to carry the famous name appeared in 1948 and, although the company is now owned by TATA Motors, its headquarters are still based in Gaydon, Warwickshire.

The current Land Rover range includes household names such as the Freelander, Discovery and Defender models, along with the premium Range Rover and Range Rover Sport line-ups.

"We are thrilled that MSN users have voted Land Rover their favourite 4x4 brand," said Colin Green, managing director of Land Rover UK.

"We know that Land Rover has some of the best brand loyalty figures in the industry and this poll is testament to that.

### Authentic

"Taking over half the votes is a great achievement and goes to prove that Land Rover really does make the world's most authentic 4x4s. Thank you to everyone who voted for us!"

"As one of Britain's most cherished car companies, it's no surprise to see Land Rover top our poll as the maker of the best 4x4 vehicles," said Tom Evans, editor of MSN Cars.

"Its profile is about to get much higher with the arrival on our roads of a handsome, compact and affordable model in the shape of the Range Rover Evoque, which looks set to be a great success."

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# sport

McKenna on the mark for juniors

Boys league  
Stourbridge 1 Southam 1  
A LAST-MINUTE goal prevented Stourbridge under-12A taking all three points from their first match of the season.

An assured finish from Callum McKenna gave Stourbridge a 1-0 lead at half-time and they nearly got a second when Lamarr Love shot wide after a good passage of play. But the conversion of a dangerous cross meant a share of the points.

**Stourbridge 6 Dudley 4**

The under-12B side emerged triumphant from a 10-goal thriller.

Liam Hands struck twice in the space of two minutes to convert a cross from Conner Fowkes and a pass by Sam Green. Dudley levelled before Green got on the scoresheet and Hands completed a hat-trick.

Green netted again in the second half and although Dudley levelled, Nathaniel Connon made it 6-3 before Dudley's consolation goal.

**Stourbridge U13 0 Wigston U 4**

**Shrewsbury 7 Stourbridge U14 1**

**Stratford Town 0 Stourbridge 3**

The under-15s eventually ran out winners after initially being denied by a combination of woodwork, goal-line clearances and a home goalkeeper in top form.

A header from a corner in the 65th minute provided the breakthrough and although Stratford went close immediately afterwards, well-taken goals on 72 and 77 minutes confirmed the win.

**Stourbridge 3 Halesowen H Minors 2**

Stourbridge under-15B recorded a second consecutive victory.

A fluent first-half saw them take the lead and while they were slower to get going in the second period, they held on under pressure towards the end of a gruelling match.

**Southam 4 Stourbridge 0**

On a very breezy day, Stourbridge's under-16 North were outplayed by a well-drilled Southam team.

At half-time they were only one down but Southam, with the wind behind them in the second period, scored three times without reply.

**Stourport Swifts 0 Stourbridge 4**

Two goals from Saul Hodgetts helped the under-16 South side to victory.

Stourbridge broke through courtesy of a Nathan Myers penalty; Hodgetts' brace and a goal by Callum Perks embellished a solid performance by an injury-depleted side.

**Stourbridge U18 0 Stratford Town 6**

# ROWE STRIKES FOR GLASSBOYS

**Evesham United 0 Stourbridge 1**

ACE MARKSMAN Ryan Rowe scored the only goal of the game as Stourbridge bounced back from Saturday's disappointing loss at Hemel Hempstead to battle to a hard-earned victory at St Georges Lane.

After a scrappy early passage of play, the visitors forced the first save of the night in the 16th minute with James Dyson spreading the ball from right to left to enable Aaron Griffiths to fire in a low shot from some 30 yards or so out that home custodian Nathan Vaughan safely held.

The Glassboys slowly began to gain the upper hand on Tuesday and they forged ahead in the 33rd minute. Ben Billingham delivered a testing inswinging freekick from the right which was met by Paul McCone whose header ran back across the face of the goal for Rowe to poach a close-range finish just inside Vaughan's left-hand upright.

The hosts were struggling to make much impression in attack, although Simon Fitter did draw a save from Lewis Solly on 36 minutes with a snap-shot from the right-hand edge of the box.

Stourbridge controlled much of the second period without adding to their lead before surviving a nervous last seven minutes.

In the 51st minute Dyson beat Leon Woodley before crossing from the right and Vaughan spilled the ball, but Josh Craddock could only push his shot the wrong side of the post.

Three minutes later Rowe did well out on the right before slipping a sublime ball in for the run of Craddock. But he could only screw his centre across the face of the box, out of the reach of the onrushing Dovey.

**Volley**

Evesham responded in the 68th minute when Gary Walker chested the ball down and hit a volley to which Solly was equal, while at the other end Sam Rock had a low shot saved by Vaughan.

The Glassboys had to ride their luck in the closing stages as Evesham finally exerted some pressure on the Stourbridge goal.

In the 83rd minute a left-wing cross from Danny Ludlow was dropped by Lewis Solly and home sub Marcus Palmer turned the ball goalwards, only for the well-placed Paul McCone to clear off the line.

Then a long free-kick from Vaughan was pumped into the visitors' box and Solly misjudged the flight of the ball, but the header from Craig Wilding landed on the roof of the net.

Stourbridge had the advantage of slope and wind after the break and two minutes after the restart a free-kick from Geddes drew a save from Bussey.

But in the 64th minute Geddes had the second. A free-kick from Pearce on the left was met by Matt McEntegart and he sent a powerful looping header past Solly to settle the match.

**Stourbridge's Sean Geddes**

his head only to see his effort rebound off Solly's right-hand upright.

The Glassboys had a half-chance on 36 minutes when a free-kick from McCone was headed on by Leon Broadhurst on the left-hand edge of the box but the near-post flick from Rowe dropped wide.

Rowe went desperately close to a second goal in the 40th minute as Liam Malone hooked the ball over to settle the match.

**Stourbridge's Sean Geddes**

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In the 87th minute a dipping long-range shot from Fitter had to be turned over the bar by Solly and then from the resulting right-wing corner to the far post, Andy Jones powered in a header that was cleared off the line by Lloyd as Gary Hackett's men clung onto their slender advantage.

In the 87th minute a dipping long-range shot from Fitter had to be turned over the bar by Solly and then from the resulting right-wing corner to the far post, Andy Jones powered in a header that was cleared off the line by Lloyd as Gary Hackett's men clung onto their slender advantage.

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A second home seven-pointer arrived towards the end of the opening quarter,

when flanker Brett Daynes reacted quickly to force his way over from a quickly-tapped free kick. Stourbridge needed and after they struck some phases together to gain a foothold in home territory, Mark Woodrow slotted over a penalty goal.

Woodrow's pinpoint touch-finder then gave his forwards a close-range, driving-lineout opportunity. After the hosts England Counties flanker Alex Nash was despatched to the sin bin for killing their first attempt, an action replay left scrum-half White with the easiest of touchdowns.

At seven points down but with the benefit of the elements to come, Stourbridge seemed probable winners at the interval.

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available with interest free credit<sup>†</sup>  
and no deposit to pay



With over 50 bathrooms and showers on display, you'll be forgiven for feeling spoilt for choice! It comes as no surprise to find that each model combines practical design with functional style as our bathrooms and showers are designed by some of the biggest and best in the market – Jacuzzi, Heritage, Daryl, Roman and Utopia – to name just a few.

As with our kitchens, our experts in the Bathroom Studio will take you through our 360° Complete Service – planning, design and an installation service all comes as standard – so we take care of everything for you.

The largest range  
of kitchens and bathrooms  
in the West Midlands

**Casa conservatories** available from £9,495\*

including cane furniture, Casa tiles and a Dimplex heater/fan worth £1,000

If you're considering adding space or improving the exterior of your home, then our Conservatory and Glazing experts here at Leekes are full of great ideas to help.

Using the finest materials, the latest technology and traditional craftsmanship, you'll find the most up to the minute innovations available – from conservatories with tiled roofs to garden rooms and orangeries.

And it's not just about conservatories. Installing replacement windows and doors, garage doors and soffits and fascias is something we're experienced in too.

Whatever home improvement project you're considering investing in, there's free design as well as a planning and installation service and a 10 year guarantee for total peace of mind - from a company with over 100 years of experience.



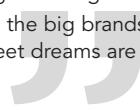
**Leekes**  
You're home

Save up to £1300 on dining and up to £1000 on sofas  
available with interest free credit<sup>†</sup> and no deposit to pay



More than any other room in your home, your lounge says the most about your personality. Whether you're looking for a contemporary corner group, sophisticated chaise longue or classic three seater sofa, quality and value for money comes as standard.

If you're looking for the perfect dining set, then you'll find an abundance of choice, from glass topped tables and elegant chairs to rustic oak dining sets and high-gloss designs too. And not forgetting the choice we have in store if it's a bed you're after. All the big brands are here including Silentnight, Rest Assured, Gainsborough and more. Sweet dreams are guaranteed – whatever you choose!



## Half price underlay<sup>††</sup>

You'll find carpets, wallpaper, cushions, lighting, cookware, mirrors, bedding, pictures and so much more – so it's easy to see why we're the one stop destination store for the perfect finishing touches.

And if you need a helping hand, then speak to our Interior Design team. Their speciality is knowing everything there is to know about designer fabrics from Harlequin, Romo, Blendworth and Designers Guild and how best to use them to create gorgeous bespoke window treatments, cushions and throws which will make a statement or simply make you feel at home. And what's more, their advice is free so it's well worth paying the team a visit when you pop into store.



Over 100,000 square feet  
of retail space



### Come and join us in our café

Take some time out in our new café. It's a great addition to the store and lets you refresh yourself and take the weight off your feet after all that shopping!

### BUY 1 GET 1 FREE on sandwiches

Purchase 1 sandwich in our café and receive another one free.

Available from Monday 12th September until Wednesday 5th October 2011.



**Leekes**  
You're home



For details of all our offers visit [leekes.co.uk](http://leekes.co.uk)

**Bilston** Great Bridge Road, West Midlands WV14 8LB  
Telephone 0845 050 8240

<sup>†</sup>Finance is subject to status, conditions apply. Minimum spend £200 in selected departments. <sup>††</sup> Available on carpet orders of £250 or more. Excludes fitting and accessories. \*\*Offer applies to doored kitchen cabinets only, excludes plumbing and electrics and ex-display kitchens. Discounts vary according to range. Minimum spend £3000. • Price based on standard 3m x 3m Casa Conservatory.

BARCODE